

Explosives aboard Saudi airliner

KARACHI (R) — Two passengers aboard a Saudi airliner were arrested after the plane made an emergency landing in Karachi and explosives were discovered in baggage, police said Friday. The two men, both Pakistanis from near Peshawar in the northwest of the country, had been carrying a detonating mechanism and were being questioned, police said. They gave no other details. The Saudi Arabian Airlines Jumbo jet, with 343 passengers and crew, was flying from Islamabad to Riyadh Thursday night when authorities in the Pakistani capital received a telephone warning of bombs aboard, they said. The pilot was ordered to land in the southern Pakistani airport and the plane surrounded by ambulances and firefighting teams as passengers were evacuated. A search of the aircraft revealed two sticks of dynamite weighing 110 kilograms in baggage, police said. Police in Karachi did not release details of the incident until Friday evening and Saudi officials in Islamabad and Karachi declined to comment. The airliner was still grounded at Karachi Friday evening and passengers were being lodged in a nearby hotel.

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Hrawi succeeds Muawwad

CHTOURA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Parliament Friday elected Elias Hrawi, a 46-year-old Maronite Catholic agricultural engineer, as Lebanon's 10th president to replace the assassinated Rene Muawwad.

In an acceptance speech after he was sworn in by Speaker Hussein Hussein, Hrawi pledged to "adhere to the Taif accord and work for peace" in Lebanon. He was referring to the Arab League-brokered peace plan worked out by Lebanese legislators last month in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif with the aim of ending the 14-year civil war.

"I promise the nation to follow the same path that martyred President Muawwad had planned for national unity," Hrawi said. The legislators applauded.

An assassin detonated a remote-controlled bomb in west Beirut as Muawwad's motorcade moved by Wednesday, killing the president and 23 other people only 17 days after his election.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad sent a telegram to Hrawi saying "I see in your election an honour to the soul of the late President Muawwad, who was determined to end Lebanon's torment."

Muawwad's body was meanwhile taken home to northern Lebanon, where mourners cursed, sobbed and tore their clothes as the coffin was carried to the Maronite church in his home town, Zghorta.

In the Christian enclave, General Michel Aoun, who had ejected Muawwad as a Syrian puppet, struck a conciliatory note by calling for a general strike Saturday.

day, the day of his funeral, to protest against the murder of a "great martyr."

But Hrawi seemed certain to be rejected by Aoun, who rules a quarter of the country and denounces the Taif peace pact because it fails to ensure the departure of Syrian troops.

Aoun has said he will refuse to accept any head of state elected under what he terms Syrian occupation and will bar him from the presidential palace in the Christian enclave.

Two ballots were required for parliament to elect the new president. In the first, when 48 votes were needed, he got 46. In the second, when a simple majority was needed, he got 47.

Hrawi was expected to attend Muawwad's funeral in Zghorta Saturday.

As with Muawwad's election Nov. 5, parliament convened with difficulty.

Ten members of parliament flew from Paris to Damascus and travelled by road to make up the quorum needed for the vote. Syrian troops mounted a massive security alert in the area.

Before Muawwad's 17-day presidency the office was vacant for more than a year.

Hrawi, businessman and former cabinet minister, comes from Zahle, which is near Chthoura in the Bekaa Valley.

Local people began firing in

the air to celebrate when radio and television stations reported his victory while the votes were still being counted.

The legislators mustered the needed quorum for a session after 14 deputies travelling from various parts of Lebanon as well as Paris and Geneva arrived at the Park Hotel, raising the number present to 53, five more than the required figure.

Reporters gathering in Chthoura counted the legislators as they disembarked from cars and entered the hotel, sealed off by hundreds of heavily armed Syrian soldiers.

Neither reporters nor photographers were allowed into the hotel and no parliament officials were available outside the walled compound to comment on the developments.

Caretaker Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss also arrived at the hotel from Beirut. He is not a Parliament member.

The Voice of the Nation radio said the new president was sworn in immediately.

It also said the new president would "announce the formation of a national reconciliation government and appoint a new commander of the army." The report could not be officially confirmed.

A sea of 15,000 mourners packed Zghorta, a straggling hillside town, as Lebanese military police carried Muawwad's casket shoulder-high to the church.

Weeping women threw rice and rose water as the coffin passed and waved pictures of Muawwad.

"We hope Beirut will be destroyed," shouted one of the

(Continued on page 2)



A scene from the wreckage of the bombed-out motorcade in which President Rene Muawwad was killed in Beirut Wednesday.

9 shot and wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded at least nine Palestinians in clashes with masked demonstrators in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday, reports said.

In the strip's Rafah refugee camp, masked Palestinians stabbed and critically wounded an Arab for immoral behaviour and suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli occupation forces, residents said.

In the town of Ramallah in occupied West Bank, Palestinians identified an Arab man killed in separate incidents in the West Bank Thursday, including a 35-year-old woman shot by an Arab at close range for suspected collaboration with Israel.

Three Palestinians were killed in separate incidents in the West Bank Thursday, including a 35-year-old woman shot by an Arab at close range for suspected collaboration with Israel.

One of the victims died when soldiers opened fire during a raid on the village of Beit Ummir near Nablus. Another victim, also a woman, was killed when a sus-

pected collaborator opened fire in Nablus after his car was stoned.

The army confirmed the three deaths and said police were investigating the two cases involving suspected collaborators.

Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip have arrested 20 Palestinians and recovered two Kalashnikov rifles which they suspect were used to kill two Israeli soldiers, sources quoted by Reuters said.

The authorities were conducting ballistic tests to see if the Soviet-designed automatic weapons fired the shots which killed the two reservists in an ambush in the Gaza Strip Nov. 13, the sources said.

The rifles were found and the Palestinians were rounded up Wednesday in the village of Sheikh Ajleen and in Gaza City near the site of the ambush.

Military censors delayed reports of the news until Friday.

The two soldiers were patrolling in a military vehicle when it was attacked by two or three assailants armed with one or more Kalashnikovs, military sources said.

A group calling itself Islamic Jihad of Palestine claimed responsibility.

Residents of Sheikh Ajleen were allowed out of their homes for several hours Friday to buy food after four consecutive days of curfew.

A hitherto unknown Palestinian group claimed responsibility Friday for killing an Israeli soldier last May and offered to swap his missing body for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

"One of our acting units in occupied Palestine captured an Israeli army officer whose name is Ilan Saadon to exchange him with Palestinian prisoners," the self-styled Organisation for Freeing the Palestinian Prisoners said.

Its typed statement was sent to an international news agency in Beirut with photocopies of Hebrew documents which the group said included Saadon's identity card.

The group said it killed the soldier after he tried to resist his detention. Saadon went missing while hitch-hiking in near the Gaza Strip May 3.

Although his body has not been found, Israel has charged two leaders of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas in Gaza, due to go on trial next week, with ordering his murder.

"We declare our readiness to exchange the officer's body with the Palestinian prisoners in the prisons of the Zionist 'enemy,'" said the statement.

"Ilan Saadon's body, his official documents and weapon, is being held in a safe place," the group said.

The group said it had also captured another Israeli soldier, Avi Sasportas, and killed him. Sasportas, a paratrooper sergeant, went missing while hitch-hiking in February. His body was found in a shallow grave inside Israel in May, days after Saadon disappeared. He had been shot in the head.

In another development, a makeshift bomb was found early Friday outside the home of a doctor who transplanted the heart of a slain Israeli soldier into a Palestinian man, and an underground Jewish group claimed responsibility for the failed device.

Bush and Thatcher discuss summit

CAMP DAVID (R) — President George Bush, preparing for next week's Malta summit, Friday conferred with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the dramatic changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

Thatcher arrived by helicopter at the snow-covered mountain top Camp David retreat in Maryland and was welcomed by Bush.

"I'm just very interested in the views of the prime minister on the rapid changes in Eastern Europe and the strength of the (NATO) alliance," Bush told reporters.

Bush has been preparing for his two-day summit, which begins on Dec. 2, with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on board vessels off the coast of Malta.

White House officials said the private meeting served to further prepare Bush for the meeting and provided him with a chance to reassure allies that there would be no dramatic shifts in U.S. foreign policy.

Thatcher, asked if there were any major NATO issues where there was disagreement between herself and Bush, replied: "None."

The two leaders sat down in a white golf cart and drove off toward the presidential lodge after Bush suggested to his guest: "Let's get out of here before we freeze."

Bush, who has been discussing the summit with other allied leaders on the telephone, has been trying to avoid fears that Washington and Moscow would produce a major deal without the knowledge of NATO members.

Although Bush has insisted the meeting with Gorbachev amounts to an informal talk with no rigid agenda, allies have been nervous because of a similar meeting in Iceland between Gorbachev and former President Ronald Reagan that turned into an extensive negotiation on nuclear arms control.

Czech old guard resigns

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Communist Party chief Milos Jakes, the politburo and the secretariat of the ruling party submitted their resignations Friday, the state-run news agency CTK reported.

The resignations were offered at a closed-door, emergency session of the party central committee.

They came after Jakes admitted the party had not instituted reforms quickly enough and had underestimated the effect of the pro-democracy movement sweeping Eastern Europe.

The resignations followed eight consecutive days of mass protests in Prague and other Czechoslovak cities to demand democratic reform.

Jakes told the central committee he was resigning so that democratic changes could be carried out. CTK reported.

It said the 150-member central committee was debating personnel changes and a new party leadership was expected to be elected by secret ballot.

"Jakes said he hoped the changes would contribute to a more resolute implementation of the process of restructuring and democratisation," the agency said.

Jakes became party general secretary in December 1987, succeeding veteran leader Gustav Husak whose hardline regime replaced Alexander Dubcek's "Prague spring" reform movement, crushed by a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968.

The resignations, involving about 25 people, were announced within hours of Dubcek's triumphant return to Prague after 20 years of political oblivion.

Dubcek urged more than 250,000 jubilant demonstrators



Demonstrators lighting candles in Prague

on Friday in the capital's Wenceslas Square to prove that "socialism with a human face," the ideal he promoted two decades ago, was still alive.

"We must unify to raise our country to a higher level," he declared in a five-minute speech, his first public appearance in Prague since the purge and his second in the last two days.

"An old wise man said, 'if there once was light, why should there be darkness again?' Let us act in such a way to bring the light back again," he said.

Dubcek threw his support behind the Civil Forum, an opposition group formed Sunday to guide Czechoslovakia's burgeoning pro-democracy movement, which seeks to force the leadership to embrace changes under way in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary and East Germany.

Ceausescu reelected party leader

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's hardline Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu, turning his back on the tide of reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, was unanimously reelected party chief Friday in a stage-managed show of adulation by his followers.

The 71-year-old leader, last of Eastern Europe's old-style communist rulers, waved from a rostrum as more than 3,000 hand-picked delegates to Romania's five-day party congress burst into rhythmic hand-clapping and roared his name in unison.

Ceausescu signalled in an acceptance speech that Romania would continue to reject the political reforms that have turned communism on its head in other East bloc states.

He also indicated there would be no let-up in rigid economic policies that have bitten deep into living standards of the country's 23-million people.

"This congress was proof that the country under the leadership of the party is determined to continue down the revolutionary path we have taken to assure the independence and sovereignty of Romania," he said.

Western diplomats said his reelection for another five years suggested that Romania faced a period of increased political isolation.

Many Western ambassadors, including those from the European Community and the United States, boycotted proceedings Friday in protest at the confiscation of documents from Western journalists arriving in the country for the congress.

Diplomats say Ceausescu's tight control of the army and the dreaded secret police has enabled him to snuff out any hint of organised political opposition.

Shamir says U.S. firm behind his plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday the United States was solidly behind his plan for Palestinian elections despite differences over the final status of the occupied territories.

"We reached an understanding that the way to advance our 'peace' initiative, which has no substitute and is the only plan on the international agenda, is by concentrating efforts on beginning the process," Shamir said.

He was referring to his proposal in May for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to choose Palestinian representatives to negotiate limited self-rule for the territories.

Shamir, returning from a visit to Washington, said: "We agreed that, despite the differences over the final status of (the West Bank) and Gaza, we can go a considerable distance by starting the process."

The United States supports trading land for peace in any final Middle East settlement. Shamir has vowed never to surrender any land.

Bush reportedly told Shamir that he was concerned about the attitude expressed by the leaders of France, and Italy," Shamir said. "We have known their position for a long time. Their policy is clearly pro-Arab and pro-PLO despite their friendship for Israel."

In an effort to advance Shamir's stalled election plan, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has proposed a five-point formula for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Shamir accepted on condition that Washington guarantees that no one associated with the PLO will have a role in the talks and that negotiations will be confined to

his elections proposal.

Vice-Premier Shimon Peres said his Labour Party may resign from Israel's governing coalition because of the continued impasse in Middle East peace efforts, army radio reported Friday.

Shamir's talks in the U.S., France and Italy "did not change a thing," Peres was quoted by the radio as saying.

"If the Likud continues to be obstinate there is a doubt Labour will sit with it in one government," Peres reportedly added. The radio did not elaborate.

The two parties, Likud and Labour, formed an uneasy governing alliance last year following indecisive elections.

Peres has threatened repeatedly to dissolve the partnership, which would mean holding new elections, unless Israel soon enters into peace talks with Palestinians.

Krenz ready to dilute party's authority

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany's embattled Communist Party wants to relinquish its constitutional right to supreme power, party chief Egon Krenz said in a newspaper interview Friday.

He told the party daily Neues Deutschland: "If it was just a question of removing the passage in Article One of the constitution referring to the party's leading role, then from our point of view there would be no need for debate."

Article One describes East Germany as a socialist state led by the Communist Party.

"We want to delete it," he said, adding that the party wanted the whole constitution reworked.

But while explicitly advocating, for the first time, removal of the constitutional provision guaranteeing the party a monopoly on power, he made plain he expects the party to remain a leading force in East Germany.

Also Friday, East Germans began streaming back into West

Berlin and West Germany for their third weekend of shopping and sightseeing since Krenz lifted travel restrictions.

West German officials early Friday reported a sharp rise in the East Germans' requests for permanent resettlement over the past 24 hours, with nearly 2,000 people seeking to live in the West. That was up from 865 over the previous 24-hour period.

Pro-democracy demonstrations also continued, with about 10,000 protesters rallying in the city of Erfurt Thursday night, said East Germany's state-run ADN news agency.

In the interview published in Neues Deutschland, Krenz called for major constitutional changes to separate the party, state and economy.

Krenz said hardline policies of the past decades caused "many basic mistakes, ultimately the crisis of our society."

Krenz, in a television interview Thursday night, had said the government is willing to include the

growing opposition movement in proposed "round-table" discussions.

The party is making attempts to restore its rapidly sinking credibility and authority.

On Friday, leaders of the government-run labour union requested a probe of Harry Tisch, an ousted politburo member and the former government labour chief, for alleged abuse of power.

On Thursday, the embattled party announced it had opened a probe against ousted leader Erich Honecker and expelled the former economy chief, Guntar Mittag, from the party, blaming them for the crisis now gripping the country (see page 8).

The disciplinary investigation against Honecker and the others was based on "grave abuses" of the party statute and "responsibility for the current situation in the party and the country," ADN said.

Krenz said in the full-page interview he was full of admiration

for the way Moscow tactfully kept silent as East Germany's former leaders repeatedly rejected the need for reforms.

Krenz said next month's emergency party congress would "put the whole truth on the table" about past errors, party finances and the dire state of the Communist movement in the country.

The party would apportion blame and bring to book those responsible for the country's Stalinist past, he said.

Krenz conceded many of the party's 2.5 million members had left because they were embittered or not prepared to join in the reform process he unleashed when he took power.

"It must be made clear, there cannot and will not be a return to old conditions," he said.

Party sources do not rule out a split in the party or even its reform at the Dec. 15-17 congress, the most important in the history of the East German Communist organisation.

Lebanese urged to implement peace plan

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Arab and foreign states have urged the Lebanese people to elect a successor to assassinated President Rene Muawad swiftly in hope of averting further bloodshed.

Pope John Paul said the killing was tragic and urged Lebanese not to seek vengeance.

"I pray to God to help all Lebanese to resist the temptation of despair and vengeance and to take again to the path of reconciliation," the Pope said in a message to Lebanon's Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir.

The Soviet Union called the murder an act of terrorism.

"This turn of events not only could block the way out of the Lebanese crisis for a long time, but could cast a shadow over the political climate in the region as a whole," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said in Moscow.

Syria, which has 33,000 troops in Lebanon, began seven days of official mourning for the slain president and along with other allies accused arms dealer General Michel Aoun of the killing.

Gennady said President Aoun telephoned the Soviet Minister Selim Kozlov on Thursday, pledging cooperation.

A senior Israeli government official voiced regret at the assassination, saying the Jewish state had no objection to Syrian efforts to stabilize Lebanon.

Government press office director Yossi Olmert stressed that Israel was not backing Aoun. "As far as we are concerned, Aoun is just another Lebanese warlord."

Iraq, which was Aoun's major arms supplier in this year's intense battles against Syrian troops, said the assassination was a conspiracy against Lebanon. Its state-owned press blamed Syria and Iran.

The 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference called for international support

for peace in Lebanon.

Arab commentators urged a swift election.

"Lebanon now is at a crossroads — either there will be a return to destruction, destitution and bloodshed or continuation of the peace march," the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Yom said.

Editorials in Arab newspapers agreed that whoever was behind the assassination aimed to plunge Lebanon into more bloodshed.

In Brussels, European Commission President Jacques Delors said Lebanese leaders should continue their search for peace.

West Germany condemned the "cowardly and abhorrent" murder.

His Majesty King Hussein said it was a criminal act aimed at Lebanon's existence and unity.

In Damascus, Lebanese Druze warrior Walid Junblatt urged Syria to boost its military presence in Beirut and warned against dividing Lebanon.

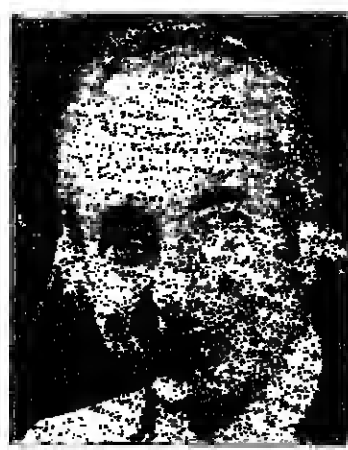
The Iranian Jomhuri Eslami daily hinted that France and the United States were ultimately responsible for the killing.

The PLO in Tunisia also condemned the killing and called for a dialogue to prevent partition of Lebanon.

Editorials in Israeli newspapers Thursday described the assassination as a blow to Syria and the peace accord, negotiated in the Saudi Arabian town of Taif and approved by the parliament on Nov. 5.

In Algeria, the three-member Arab League Committee that worked out the Taif accord said Thursday it would continue to pursue a peaceful solution to the civil war following the killing of Muawad.

The committee, made up of the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, issued a statement in Algiers "reaffirming its commitment to pursue its mission," the French news agency Agence



Rene Muawad

France-Presse reported.

In London Thursday, a special meeting between Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave and Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zamyatin produced a joint statement calling on Syria and Lebanese forces to react with restraint.

The Foreign Office, noting that the Soviet-British meeting was requested by Moscow, said the two agreed that Lebanon's best chance of peace lay with renewed efforts by the Arab League to promote a national reconciliation plan.

Iran said Thursday the killing of Muawad was part of efforts by the West, Israel and Iraq to bring concessions from Lebanese Muslims and strengthen Aoun.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mordechai Sarmadi said the assassination "was another scene in the play staged by Western arrogance and its regional allies, that is Israel and Iraq, to strengthen Michel Aoun and force Islamic and nationalist forces to give further concessions to political Maronism."

Sarmadi, speaking on Tehran Radio, said the West ultimately wanted to bring Lebanon under the complete sway of Israel.

Radical Palestinian guerrilla groups Thursday also condemned the assassination. Spokesmen for the Popular

Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), the main group and the Palestinian Communist Party called for separate statements for unity among the Lebanese to continue the peace process in the war-torn country.

"The hands which assassinated Muawad wanted to kill Lebanon's unity to serve the interests of Lebanon's enemies in renewing the wave of violence and bloody fighting," the PFLP-GC spokesman said.

"While condemning the cowardly crime we call upon the Lebanese people to stick to their unity and implement the Arab solution as a way to solve Lebanon's crisis," he added.

A spokesman for the Sa'qa guerrilla group described Muawad's assassination as "one of the most serious conspiracies against Lebanon."

"The treacherous Zionist forces and the elements of destruction led by Michel Aoun wanted by killing Muawad to return Lebanon to the zero point and to renew the wave of fighting and to partition Lebanon," the spokesman said.

The Palestinian Communist Party spokesman expressed his group's support to the Arab efforts aimed at unifying Lebanon and restoring peace and security to the country.

"We have great hopes that this crime would be a big motive for all Lebanese to rally their efforts to make the reconciliation process a success."

Switzerland also condemned the assassination Thursday. Aoun repeatedly had denounced Muawad and his election on Nov. 5 by parliament, but Aoun denied any role in the bombing Wednesday that killed the president.

"Death ends peace chances"

In Brazil, the mother of the assassinated Lebanese president mourned him as the country's last hope for peace.

"He wanted peace, he was

the only man who could bring peace. But that's no longer possible," said Evelyn Muawad, who was born in Brazil to Lebanese parents and who now lives in Niteroi, near Rio de Janeiro.

"It was a dream, such a beautiful dream. Now, there's no hope," she said in an interview published Thursday by the Rio daily Journal do Brasil.

Mrs. Muawad said she was trying to arrange a flight to Lebanon as soon as possible so she could attend her son's funeral, scheduled for Saturday.

Meanwhile fear dominated the faces of Beirut's residents Wednesday as news of the brutal killing of Lebanon's new president Rene Muawad spread through the capital.

"It seems destiny does not want Lebanon to live in peace," Gamileh Hassan said. "Death will never leave this country."

Dread of the unknown drove scores of people to their cars in a renewed exodus from the city which has seen so much bloodshed. The big guns of battle fell silent only last Sept. 23.

"What will happen to us now? Will we go back to the bombshelters, would it be better to pack and leave the country, will we lead the country now?" asked Mahmoud Shaiti.

"We have just returned to the country and repaired our houses and resumed our normal lives. What should we do now," he asked.

Those packed into departing cars said they were heading to southern Lebanon for fear that fighting would erupt again. In a city seething with military hardware and armed support or opposition to the Syrian-backed president, ordinary residents over many years have learnt distrust.

Many of the families packed into the cars had only returned two months ago after being driven out by six months of bitter artillery fighting between Aoun's Lebanese army troops and Syrian troops and their

allies.

That fighting killed 850 people, wounded thousands and destroyed hundreds of shops and houses.

The day before his murder after only 17 days in office, Muawad told the nation: "I assure you that the decision of salvation has been taken and will be implemented whatever the consequences and the sacrifices are."

In both the Eastern and the Western sectors of the divided city, residents, who had earlier been celebrating Lebanon's Independence Day, expressed their shock as the news spread.

Streets were deserted in Syrian-policed mainly Muslim West Beirut where shopkeepers pulled down their shutters and people huddled by their radios.

"I almost had a heart attack when I heard the news. It is not only the man (Muawad) we are weeping for but Lebanon," said Khalil Hassan sitting at the entrance to his home with his neighbours and hugging a radio transmitter.

"It was a happy day for Lebanon. We were celebrating Independence Day. The worst round of violence was over and we had a new president to bring peace. Now all that is over," he said.

"My children earned Lebanese flags all morning waving them from the balcony... they killed him (Muawad) on Independence Day as if they want to say the Lebanese have no independence and we are not allowed to be a united country," added Khaled Omar.

In Christian East Beirut where thousands demonstrated earlier this month against Muawad's election, people saw the event as a tragedy.

"It seems that there is some kind of invisible hand ready to strike whenever hope returns to Lebanon. Didn't he know that they were going to kill him," asked George Tannous.

"Tomorrow they will not bury Muawad. It's Lebanon's funeral."

Mubarak blames outside forces over Egypt-Iraq labour row

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak, playing down an extension of Egyptian support to Iraq, has accused foreign powers of trying to damage Cairo-Baghdad relations.

"There are many hands trying to dent ties between Egypt and Iraq, and we are not going to let their strong and constant relations," Mubarak told reporters after meeting Sudanese military leader General Omar al-Bashir.

He did not elaborate.

"There was a problem and it is

being settled," Mubarak said. "Iraqis are responding positively and want to find solution as they consider Egyptians their sons."

Thousands of Egyptians flew home from Iraq this month, alleging they had been mistreated. Some claimed Egyptians had been killed by Iraqi soldiers hunting for jobs after a ceasefire ended fighting in the Gulf war with Iran last year.

Egypt, which provided Baghdad with expertise and arms during the war, is linked with Iraq,

Jordan, and North Yemen in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

"There are many outside forces which do not want this sort of agreement," Mubarak said, referring the ACC.

Iraq is reported to owe Egyptian workers at least \$350 million. It cut the limit of permitted remittances to \$30 from \$75 a month.

"Iraq has come out of a war and suffering austerity," Mubarak said. "It may not have liquidity to transfer abroad."

Hrawi elected to succeed Muawad

(Continued from page 1)

mourners. "We sent you the president and you killed him."

With the president's coffin on its final journey came those of six bodyguards killed by Wednesday's bomb, which devastated Muawad's motorcade as he left an independence day reception in west Beirut.

At the church, Our Lady of Zghorta, Muawad's wife Nayla rested her head on the president's coffin and sobbed.

In the divided capital, Lebanese and Syrian police and troops lined the streets as the flag-draped coffin travelled to the airport in a 300-vehicle motorcade. An estimated 5,000 people, many in tears, watched the cortege pass.

Ambassadors, military attaches and senior army and government officials stood in tribute as the coffins were loaded on a plane for Kleilat, the northern air base where parliament elected Muawad.

The lawmakers' speedy meeting in Chitoura to vote in a successor was evidence of their determination to push the peace process through despite the fear triggered by Muawad's assassination.

Chitoura, 37 kilometres east of Beirut, had frequently been shelled by Aoun's forces during his six months of savage artillery duels with the Syrian army in which at least 930 people were killed.

"We are all frightened, but we have discovered that courage is the son of fear," Deputy Butros

Harb, a Christian, told an interviewer before going to Chitoura.

Parliament is the last vestige of legitimacy in Lebanon. It was elected in 1972 for a four-year term. But the civil war, which broke out in 1975, prevented new elections.

That made the one-chamber house the longest serving since Lebanon gained independence. Only 72 members — 39 Christians and 33 Muslims — of the 99 elected 17 years ago are still in parliament. Five were assassinated, while others died of natural causes.

The seat held by former President Amin Gemayel has been vacant since he was elected to the top office in 1982. Muawad's seat also has been vacant, since his election Nov. 5.

Tigray rebels say Ethiopia blocked famine relief at talks

LONDON (R) — The leader of Tigrayan rebels fighting the Ethiopian government has said Addis Ababa had refused to allow safe passage of relief supplies to millions of famine victims.

Meles Zenawi, leader of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), also accused the Ethiopian government of intransigence at recent peace talks in Rome.

Zenawi told a news conference in London he had proposed an agreement allowing food relief to reach an estimated 2.5 million people facing famine after a crop failure.

"The relief effort would be facilitated if both sides were to agree on safe passage for relief goods and relief workers," Zenawi said in a statement. "We proposed such an agreement during the Rome talks, but it was rejected... as impractical."

The only alternative, he said, was for a "major cross-border operation to reach the drought victims from Sudan."

The TPLF, established in 1975, is fighting to overthrow the Marxist government of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and set up a broader administration in the whole of Ethiopia.

The Rome talks are due to set the agenda for full-scale peace negotiations between the government and the TPLF.

Zenawi said the two sides made some progress on procedu-

ral matters in Rome. Disputes over procedure delayed the Nov. 4 talks, at which the Italian government acted as observer, for nine hours.

"The fact that the procedural matters have proved so difficult to handle indicates that the substantive talks themselves will be even more difficult," Zenawi said.

"The main problem is the intransigent stance of the derg (military council). It is our sincere hope that the regime in Addis Ababa will come to its senses and play a constructive role in the peace talks," he added.

Zenawi said important questions remained unresolved and would be taken up at the next round of talks scheduled to take place in Rome on Dec. 12. These include the identity of the delegates to the main talks, the agenda, the identity of the chairman and observers.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), another rebel group which wants independence for the former Italian colony of Eritrea, is holding separate talks with Addis Ababa.

Relief agencies say up to 1.7 million people are threatened with famine in the drought-stricken north. But the figure covers only those victims who can be reached from government-held towns and does not take into account Eritreans and Tigrayans

in areas under rebel control.

"Once again, the international community is being asked to help. There cannot, of course, be any lasting solution to hunger when there is no peace, when economic policies which crush the initiative of the peasants are enforced," Zenawi said.

In Nairobi, Kenya, the Ethiopian government and the Eritrean rebels have chosen former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere to co-chair full peace talks aimed at ending Africa's longest civil war.

Nyerere will join former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in supervising negotiations to end Eritrea's 28-year-old conflict, sources close to preliminary talks in Nairobi said Thursday.

A spokeswoman for Carter, who is chairing the preliminary round in Nairobi, said the Ethiopian government and the EPLF were now discussing the last procedural issue to be decided before full peace talks begin — the selection of international observers.

"They have agreed on the chairmanship and the secretariat and they continue making progress on the issue of observers," Carrie Harmon told reporters.

The EPLF is fighting for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony. Carter estimates that one million people have died in the conflict, which has created 800,000 refugees.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

S. Yemen says democracy essential

ADEN (R) — South Yemen has said democracy had become a necessity. "Democracy has become a modern phenomenon and an essential need for the Yemeni people which has to be translated into practical action such as respecting human rights, freedom of the press and freedom of criticism," the ruling Socialist Party said in a statement. South Yemen, following East Europe's reform wave, lifted travel restrictions a week ago, allowing its citizens to visit North Yemen with only their identity cards. The statement said the party held intensive meetings Thursday, discussing unification plans with North Yemen. "The central committee, after studying proposals presented by both sides, sees that the practical and possible step which should be taken at this time is finding a formula for a transitory period of unification... This period is important until all conditions for a complete unification are present, with no setbacks when it occurs," the statement said.

Israel says Poland will restore ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Friday that Poland had decided to restore full diplomatic ties. It would be the second East European nation to resume normal relations with the Jewish state. An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski told Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Thursday his government would restore full diplomatic relations with Israel in the near future. The Polish minister did not set a date, the spokesman said, but told Arens by telephone that Israel's representative in Warsaw was already regarded as an ambassador. Most East Bloc nations severed diplomatic ties with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. Only Romania maintained ties and East Germany did not have relations. Hungary restored relations in September. Israel has an interests section in Poland and a consular delegation in the Soviet Union.

Bern seeks to free Red Cross hostages

BERN (AP) — The Swiss government has stepped up its activities to free two Red Cross relief workers kidnapped in Lebanon in October, a foreign ministry official said Thursday. Klaus Jacobi also said the government condemned the assassination of Lebanon's president, Rene Muawad, who was killed in a bomb explosion Wednesday. Jacobi said Switzerland had strengthened contacts with friendly governments in the Middle East in a bid to secure the release of Emanuel Christen and Elio Enriquez. The two Swiss men worked as orthopedic technicians at an International Committee of the Red Cross hospital. Jacobi said negotiations were underway with Syrian and Algerian authorities, and the Swiss government expected to increase contacts with Libya. No group has claimed responsibility for seizing the men on Oct. 6 in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

Israeli newspaper fired

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Tel Aviv judge Thursday ordered an Israeli newspaper and three editors to pay fines totaling 2,000 shekels (\$1,000) for violating censorship rules in reporting a controversial 1984 bus hijacking. The newspaper Hadashot reported at the time that the government had launched an investigation into the killings by the Shin Bet secret service of two Palestinians captured after the hijacking. The judge upheld a complaint from the government censor's office that the paper violated regulations by revealing the probe without getting the censor's approval to do so. Editor Yossi Klein said he would appeal.

Israel-S. African contracts to end in 1992

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has told U.S. officials and American Jewish leaders that Israel's contracts with South Africa would not be renewed when they expire in 1992, a U.S. Jewish leader said Thursday. The statement by Seymour D. Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York, was the first indication of the termination date of Israel's existing contracts with South Africa. In September 1987, Israel attacked a series of conditions to its relations with South Africa, including a ban on all new investments and government loans. That decision, however, exempted existing contracts. Shamir's assurances, made during his recent visit to the United States, followed allegations about extensive military cooperation between the two countries. Reports suggested Israel had helped South Africa develop a nuclear-capable, long-range missile using U.S.-developed technology. Israeli leaders strongly denied violating U.S. regulations in providing Pretoria with American or U.S.-funded military technology. They also denied helping South Africa acquire a nuclear ability.

Cyprus divide crumbles a bit

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriots eased entry for Greek Cypriots to their breakaway state Thursday — the first such move since the island was divided 15 years ago. But some 150 hopefuls who misunderstood the announcement were turned back at the Nicosia green line. Under the new rules, Cypriots with compelling reasons will be allowed to visit the northern part of the island without signing entry forms. Documentation had effectively barred Greek Cypriots who refused to acknowledge the self-declared state. Turkish Cypriot sources said some who turned up Thursday wanted to see homes they fled in 1974, others to visit friends.

Direct flight from Moscow to Israel

LOD (R) — A rare direct flight from Moscow landed Thursday at Israel's Ben Gurion airport carrying a Soviet chess team to compete in an international tournament. The 26-member chess team including the reigning female world champion Maya Ciburdandze will compete in the European Chess Championships opening in Haifa Friday. Moscow severed ties with Israel after the 1967 war. Aeroflot and the Israeli carrier El Al are currently negotiating regular direct flights between the two countries.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
15:50 News summary
16:00 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
16:05 Message from Iraq
16:10 A play by Shakespeare
16:15 Religious programme
16:20 News in Arabic
16:25 Arabic series
16:30 Programme review
16:35 News in Arabic
16:40 Religious programme
16:45 News in English
16:50 News in English
16:55 News in English
17:00 News in English

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Orages d'été
17:35 News in French
17:40 Documentaries about animals
17:45 News in Hebrew
17:50 News in Arabic
17:55 News in Arabic
18:00 News in Arabic
18:05 News in Arabic
18:10 News in Arabic
18:15 News in Arabic
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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzentsa Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626243.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Egidius Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 681373
Dr. Sahal Tannous 689093
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions will prevail and winds will be westerly light

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Amman Min/Max. temp. 7/20
Agaba 12/25
Doeiri 5/24
Jordan Valley 14/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Agaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Agaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Amjad Nawras 781806
Dr. Mohammad Amran 653999
Dr. Sami Khoury 681373
Dr. Sahal Tannous 689093
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 626072
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuqran pharmacy 637660

Dr. Amjad Obaidat (—)
Al Sharrar pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mufid Hamzah (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 08-53320
RJ Flight Information 08-53320
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shomoni 664174
Shuqran Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845843
Al-Madar Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Saidi, J.

King, Attas discuss Yemeni reunification

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and South Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas discussed in a telephone conversation on-going efforts to unify North and South Yemen and a number of other Arab affairs.

Attas, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts on the domestic and pan-Arab levels and extended an invitation to the King to visit South Yemen. Petra said that King Hussein had accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit as soon as possible.

Nicaraguan message

King Hussein Thursday also received a message from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega explaining the internal situation in Nicaragua and Managua's plans to hold general elections under international supervision. The message, which was delivered at the Royal Court by Ortega envoy George Hallaq, expressed Nicaragua's desire to promote its relations with Jordan within the context of the Non-Aligned Movement.

King urges Hanania to pursue cardiology

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed pride in the achievements of the well-known cardiac surgeon Daoud Hanania and urged him to pursue his efforts in alleviating the sufferings of heart patients from Jordan and other Arab countries.

In a message he sent to Hanania, who is director of the National Medical Institute (NMI), the King said that he hoped the surgeon's choice as member of the newly enlarged Upper House of Parliament (Senate) would not stand in the way of his pursuit of humanitarian efforts and his work at the NMI and the Queen Alia Heart Centre.

"Your rightful choice as senator should not impede your efforts to serve your country in the medical field, an area for which you enjoy our complete confidence and appreciation," the King said in his message.

"You have offered a great deal to Jordanian and Arab cardiac patients and contributed so much towards promoting the medical and health services of the Kingdom and for this reason you have rightly won pan-Arab and international respect and our deep appreciation," the King added.

"I do urge you to pursue efforts to alleviate the pain and anxiety of heart patients, and wish you all success in carrying on your immensely beneficial service for your country," the King concluded.

Lawzi thanks King

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Thursday sent a cable to King Hussein, expressing sincere gratitude and appreciation for his choice of members of the new Senate. "We pledge loyalty to you, allegiance to your sincere leadership, and exertion of efforts for the good of our Jordan and our great nation under the triumphant Hashemite banner," Lawzi said in his cable.

Lawzi received a congratulatory cable from Palestinian National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh. In his cable, Sayeh congratulated Lawzi for his reappointment as speaker of the Senate and voiced hope that he would be successful in serving Arab and Islamic issues, foremost of which is the Palestine cause.

King condoles Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable of sympathy to Lebanese Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Hussein on the assassination of President Rene Muawad, in West Beirut last Wednesday.

"King Hussein condemned the killing as a 'criminal move directed against the existence of Lebanon, its Arab identity and unity,'" the King voiced confidence that Lebanon would be able to rebuild itself despite the loss of Muawad.

"We are confident that Lebanon will rise up again and transcend all hatred to resume the rebuilding of its national fabric regardless of the sacrifices," the King said.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker sent a message of condolences to Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss voicing Jordan's solidarity with Lebanon and expressing deep sorrow over the loss of Muawad. "We strongly condemn the cycle of violence which is now threatening the whole Lebanese society, and hope that the Lebanese people will unify their ranks and collectively confront the challenges," the prime minister said. He requested that Jordan's sympathy be conveyed to the bereaved Muawad family and the Lebanese people.

Boat race held in Aqaba to mark King's birthday

AQABA (Petra) — Youth Minister Awad Khleifat Friday deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in opening a 73.5-mile boat race organised by the Royal Jordanian Skiing Federation to mark the King's birthday.

Contestants were divided into two categories. Hamad Bouhleba from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) won His Majesty's Cup, which is given to the first place winner in the first category. Husam Yafi from Kuwait was placed second in the first category and Ahmad Al Ansari from the UAE finished third.

In the second category, UAE contestants Khalif Hareb, Khaled Bakhit and Bathi Musbah won the first three places respectively.

RJ underlines Jordan's civil aviation potential

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil Aviation training and maintenance centres in Jordan together form a convenient nucleus for the establishment of a specialised college in civil aviation in the Kingdom, according to Royal Jordanian (RJ) Director-General Husam Abu Ghazaleh.

"In addition to the civil aviation training centre, the country operates a gliding club as well as the Royal Falcons Club and other facilities qualifying it to set up an integrated college for civil aviation," Abu Ghazaleh told technicians and employees of the RJ training centre Thursday.

The meeting was called to discuss various aspects of the training programmes, requirements for improvements, and staff required to provide training and maintenance services for RJ and other commercial airlines that make use of RJ's facilities.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic calligraphy at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An exhibition by Jordanian artists Namat Al Naser and Larisa Najjar at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Anwar Haddadin at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Documentary film on German expressionism at Goethe Institute at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Italian films at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

BAZAAR

- ★ Charity bazaar on productive projects at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.



Her Majesty Queen Noor basks a child Friday while attending the concluding ceremony of a sports championship for the disabled. (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Sports for disabled conclude in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday presented cups and medals to the winners in the three-day pan-Arab sports championship for disabled, which was organised by the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH).

Jordan's Maher Al Badri and Maha Barghouti won the first and second places in the table tennis finals Friday.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid, who is also president of the JSFH, reviewed the federation's objectives. Prince Ra'd said the federation does not only give the handicapped the chance to participate in sports, but also gives them the opportunity to develop their potential.

He pointed out that despite limited resources the federation had succeeded, in cooperation with various institutions, to provide for the needs of the disabled.

Taking part in the championship were disabled persons from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain and Kuwait.

The closing ceremony was attended by a number of Arab ambassadors in Amman.

Plan under way to offer food for schoolchildren

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is taking steps to speed up the implementation of a United Nations funded project to provide food to some 60,000 schoolchildren in the Kingdom.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Amman Ali Atiga attended a meeting at the ministry Thursday chaired by Education Minister Adnan Badran to discuss steps taken to speed up the execution of the project which will also benefit illiterates attending adult education centre and evening schools operated by the Ministry of Education.

A World Food Programme (WFP) team visited Jordanian schools and conducted negotiations with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Planning and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) earlier to draw up plans for the project, according to a statement by the Ministry of Education.

The team recommended as an initial stage to provide food to 23,000 children and to 3,200 illiterates at adult education centres, the statement noted.

The Ministry of Education has pledged to provide staff to supervise and manage the food programme for schoolchildren, to make arrangements for storing food supplies needed for the project and to finance the cost of such operations for a period of five years while the WFP will provide the food supplies and technical advice and will conduct an assessment study at the end of the programme.

Maritime company to promote tourism

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iraq, Egypt and Jordan have decided to promote tourism in the region through developing the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route and purchasing fast speedboats to transport tourists and other travellers between Aqaba and Nweibeh. The move is bound to raise the level of tourism to Egyptian and Jordanian tourist attractions, according to a statement issued here after a meeting Thursday.

The decision, which is to be implemented in the next few months, was taken by Minister of Transport Hikmat Al Khamash and his Iraqi and Egyptian counterparts Mobammad Zubeidi and Suleiman Mitwally respectively.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the three ministers reviewed various aspects related to the land-sea route operated jointly under the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) and elected a new board for the company.

The decision came at the company's general assembly session, which reviewed the land-sea route's operations and the profits made in the first nine months of 1989.

According to Petra, the assembly discussed the final draft of an agreement between local transport companies in Iraq, Jordan and Egypt on the one hand and the Arab Maritime Bridge Company on the other to launch a road project linking Amman, Baghdad and Cairo through the land-sea route.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LIECHTENSTEIN FUNERAL: Jordan's Ambassador to Switzerland Adnan Talhoumi Thursday deputised for Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor at the funeral of the Liechtenstein's Prince Franz Josef II. The ambassador also conveyed the condolences of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvat. (Petra)

MILITARY DELEGATION VISITS U.S.: Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb left Thursday heading a military delegation on an official visit to the United States expected to last several days. (Petra)

AMF DIRECTOR IN JORDAN: Director of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) Usama Faqih arrived in Amman Friday on a two-day official visit for talks with Jordanian officials on economic and financial issues. In his arrival statement, Faqih said that his visit was aimed at briefing Jordanian economists, businessmen and bankers on AMF's programmes for financing Arab trade and how they could benefit from them. (Petra)

Herbs project to assist rural women

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A United Nations-funded project aimed at involving rural women in productive activities and generating income was launched at the Bani Kanana district in northern Jordan Thursday at a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The medicinal herbs project, to be carried out in five Bani Kanana villages in Irbid Governorate, is financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and is being implemented by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Bani Kanana branch of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW).

Queen Noor took part in the

planting of herbs such as thyme, chamomile, sage, peppermint and anise along with local residents.

Technical expertise for the project is provided by the faculties of agriculture and pharmacy at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Hikma Pharmaceuticals Company.

The selected herbs had been chosen for the project because of their high economic yield and market demand since they are traditionally been used as home remedies for many ailments and their oils used in the manufacturing of medicines.

The project's director, Salwa Al Masri, told the gathering at the ceremony that the project was part of the NHF's overall programme

to raise the standard of Jordanian women and involve rural women in constructive work.

Masri said the second stage of the project would be launched in February, 1990, when larger areas of land will be planted with herbs around the villages of Hub-rass, Rafeed, Yubla, Kufi Soum and Malka, and that arrangements would be made for marketing the products in Jordan and abroad.

Masri said these herbs are now mainly imported and therefore the project fits the overall strategy of decreasing Jordan's dependence on outside sources.

The project will also encourage interaction between the community and social institutions and set a model for research and practical application by university students, Masri said.

According to Fatimah Obeidat, president of the GFJW's Irbid branch, 30 local women will be initially recruited to take part in the project.

The majority of these women, she said, have large families and are either illiterate or have received very little education. These women, she added, either own the land on which the herbs will be grown or will rent it or share its ownership with others. The project involves encouraging all women to utilise their home gardens and other unexploited land for planting useful aromatic and medicinal herbs with a view to meeting the high demand for these plants.

The NHF believes that the pilot project could easily be copied by other women's organisations around the country.

Campaign to ensure vehicle safety

AMMAN (J.T.) — Traffic police Saturday begins a month-long campaign in the country to ensure that all vehicles are fit and safe for the winter season, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD).

Traffic police will conduct inspections to ensure that lights, wheels and wind shield wipers and other parts of the vehicles are in good working condition to ensure safe driving, the statement said.

It said that the campaign was deemed necessary at the start of the winter season when roads are bound to be slippery, wet and covered with fog.

The statement urged all motorists to take extra precaution in driving during the winter season and to strictly abide by traffic regulations to ensure safety on the roads.

A two-day seminar on means to contain traffic problems in Jordan held last month said a total of 18,038 accidents occurred in the country in 1988, up from 2,853 road accidents in 1970, causing the death of 364 people.

Engineers call for Arab summit on food security

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day meeting of the Arab Agricultural Engineers Federation's (AAEF) Higher Council concluded here Friday with a call for convening an Arab summit or a meeting at the prime ministerial level to discuss Arab food security.

The Arab World currently faces a serious food shortage caused by its inability to grow cereals and shortages in meat and dairy products, according to Agriculture Minister Bassam Saket, who addressed the opening session Wednesday.

Saket pointed out that the

Arab World imported \$2.4 billion worth of food annually during the 1970s. However, the figure jumped to \$13.4 billion in the 1980s. Such figures, Saket noted, show that Arabs rely in their food supplies on imports, a situation that jeopardises the Arab countries and poses a threat tantamount to that of military confrontation with an external power.

Agricultural engineers from six Arab countries attending the meeting adopted a number of recommendations and resolutions, including a decision to res-

tore Egypt's membership in the Federation. They also decided to look for new potential resources to support the agricultural engineers fund in occupied Palestine and to raise contribution for the fund.

Participants also adopted a recommendation urging all agriculture faculties in Arab universities to allocate several seats for students from the occupied territories.

Participants agreed to hold the 9th technical meeting in Nov. 1990 in Cairo, and the 10th technical meeting in Rabat.

W. Germany, JEA study joint projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team from the West German energy institute is currently holding talks with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on promoting cooperation in generating electric power from solar energy.

The team had a meeting here on Thursday with JEA Director General Mohammad Said Arafeh on scopes of such beneficial cooperation and the prospect of training JEA engineers in West German installations and institutions.

According to a JEA statement, the West German team will hold a series of meetings here and will visit the site of a thermal power

station project at Qweira, south of here, where JEA has prepared the ground to exploit solar power in the process of generating electricity at the rate of 30 megawatts.

According to the statement, the projected solar power station at Qweira could be the largest of its kind in the world. It said that a consortium of American and European firms were conducting a feasibility study on the project, expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1990.

Another Jordanian institution, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), has been benefiting from

West German expertise in the exploitation of solar energy to supply power to remote areas in the Kingdom.

With help and expertise provided through the West German agency for technical cooperation (GTZ), the RSS carried out a solar-wind power project at Jurf Al Darawish, 170 kilometres south of Amman, which was inaugurated in August 1988.

The remote village, inhabited by 600 people has benefited from the generated power for domestic use and for driving water pumps to supply water for irrigation purposes.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Time to bury the hatchet

TODAY, Lebanon buries its president, Rene Muawad, and investigation begins in earnest to find his assassins. So far, the Lebanese authorities have only offered speculations as to who may be behind the latest crime against Lebanese legitimacy and unity. It should not be too difficult to pinpoint the real culprits who have perpetrated this outrageous crime as physical and political evidences are plentiful already. The first duty that Lebanon and the Lebanese can perform for their martyr president is to research all the events that led to his murder on Lebanon's national day. Accordingly, the first order of business for the government of Lebanon is to do just that, whether a new president is elected or not in the next few days.

It does not take much imagination to make a considered guess as to who may have perpetrated this latest crime against Lebanon. The prime suspect should include of course all those who vehemently and hysterically rejected the Taif agreement and the election of President Muawad on Nov. 6. The list of suspects would surely include not only the followers of General Michel Aoun whose reaction to the Taif agreement and the election of Muawad went as far as insulting by word and deed Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir and the issuance of repeated threats against the lives of all those who made that agreement and election possible, but also the other suspects who stand to gain from the return of civil strife and bloodshed to Lebanon including those forces who are aligned with Iran.

But be that as it may, resolving this issue of who "killed" Muawad must be accorded the highest priority. Unfortunately Lebanon has a long history of hushing up many atrocities that were committed on its soil, but now is the time to call a spade a spade and point the finger to the real party that brought Lebanon and its people back to square one.

Above all this is the time for General Aoun to condemn the assassination of Muawad and to extend his hands of cooperation to those of legitimacy in Lebanon and renew his support for all efforts to breathe new life into the Taif agreement. Perhaps this is too much to ask of Aoun given his strong opposition to the tide of reason and reconciliation in Lebanon that was ushered in by the Taif agreement. Still with the death of President Muawad it is time to honour that great man who knowingly sacrificed his life for his country and people by burying with him all the hatchets that still remain in the minds and souls of so many Lebanese people. General Aoun can play a magnificent role at this very critical juncture in the life of his country by lending his support to reasonable reconciliation, burying his own personal views on what is best for Lebanon and the Lebanese people and acceding to the will of the majority of his own people as well as the people of the world. This could be his finest hour.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday discussed the situation in Lebanon following the assassination of its President Rene Muawad and preparations for the election of a successor. The paper said that the parliament deputies' gathering Friday at a secret venue to choose a successor to Muawad is a clear indication of their determination to maintain their moral stance despite the tragic death of the president and to choose a successor who can pave the way for a return to normal peaceful life in Lebanon. The paper said that the death of the president dealt a severe blow to all Arabs; but the determination of the deputies to get together and pool their efforts in a bid to end the crisis is a healthy sign for Lebanon, because it proves that no crime can now stand in the way of the people who are determined to end the civil strife for ever. The paper noted, however, that any real opposition to the ongoing process and any obstacles to be placed in the path of the new president would not doubt be considered as a criminal action and that any warlord involved in such affair cannot escape the prospect of being condemned worldwide as a terrorist and an outlawed criminal.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticises the French government for adopting policies considered hostile to the Arabs. Just before Yitzhak's Shamir's visit to France, which has just ended, the French government announced that it was selling military aircraft engines to Israel, a far cry from the policies of late French leader Charles de Gaulle who in 1967 banned all arms sales to Israel because of its aggression on the Arab countries, says Tareq Masarweh. The writer says there is a big difference between de Gaulle's France and the present day France. It seems that the French have contracted a disease that affected the United States, and succumbed to Israel's pressures, opening the way for arms sales and other assistance to the Jewish state, the writer notes. He wonders if France is doing this to appease Shamir and coax him into accepting Paris's ideas on the Middle East. Do the French believe that five engines or 50 engines could change Shamir's adamant position; and could this policy stop Israel from murdering more Palestinians including women and children? The writer asks. The writer notes that another racist and aggressive country, South Africa, began to show some changes in its policies only when Europe and the United States began to exert real pressure on Pretoria. The Europeans realise that Israel has annexed Arab Jerusalem and maintains an occupation of Arab land, killing innocent people, says the writer. He calls on the European countries to take a unified and firm stand vis a vis Israel to stop its repressive policies and its disregard to the will of the international community.

Al Dustour Friday praised Arab unanimous condemnation of the assassination of President Rene Muawad of Lebanon and said that it shows that the Arab countries are determined to help the Lebanese confront the conspiracies directed against their country's independence and existence. The paper said the loss of a man who dedicated his efforts to bring peace to his country dealt a hard blow to the Arab League which spearheaded efforts to bring about a real and lasting settlement in Lebanon.

Israel vs. Palestinian human rights activist

By Anthony Lewis

"As to the beating of the man, it was only moderate enough to convince him to accept detention."

Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's defence minister, in a letter to former President Jimmy Carter.

BOSTON — In a column last month I described the arrest of a Palestinian human rights worker, Shawan Jabarin, and his sworn charge that Israeli soldiers savagely beat him.

There have been further developments in the case, and they should be noted.

On Oct. 10, Jabarin was taken from his home in the West Bank to a military government compound.

There, he said, soldiers burned him with a cigarette, punched him and jumped on him until he lied.

When a doctor saw his condition, he was taken to the Hadassah hospital and examined.

Then he was brought to a prison.

The soldiers who took Jabarin into custody did not tell him why he was being arrested.

He was not questioned in the military compound, or afterward in prison.

On Oct. 24, two weeks after his arrest, Jabarin was handed a military order signed on Oct. 22.

It directed that he be detained without trial for one year. No reasons were given.

The case aroused concern among human rights watch groups, in this country and in Israel, and several wrote to Israeli officials.

Former President Jimmy Car-

ter, who maintains an active interest in international human rights, wrote to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

When I first heard about the case, on Oct. 17, I asked the Israeli embassy spokesman in Washington about it.

She relayed the request to Jerusalem but got no answer before my column was published, on Oct. 22.

On Oct. 25 the embassy issued a statement.

It began by saying that Jabarin was "senior activist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine."

Israeli officials have said that before.

On this occasion, as on the others, no evidence was offered to support the claim.

He has never been legally charged with such membership, which would be a criminal offense.

As to Jabarin's charge that he was beaten, the embassy statement said: "He resisted arrest and it was necessary to use reasonable force to put him in jail."

It said Hadassah doctors had found only minor wounds.

"His condition was stable and he was released the same day to a week of bed rest."

Rabin replied to Carter on Oct. 27. He said "reasonable pressure" was put on Jabarin "after he refused to enter into the prison cell."

It was "beating... moderate enough to convince him to accept detention."

Rabin's letter and the embassy statement raised more questions than they answered.

Jabarin was in a military compound, surrounded by soldiers.

How could it be necessary to beat him, "moderately" or otherwise, to "convince" him to accept detention?

If hospital doctors found only minor injuries, why was he sent for a "week of bed rest"?

Moreover, Hadassah hospital says it has no record of treating Jabarin. Why not? Who were the doctors? What did they say?

The explanation that a prisoner was hurt while "resisting arrest" does not carry much conviction in the United States, nor I suppose ordinarily in Israel.

But Jabarin is a Palestinian,

and that makes him automatically suspect to some people.

I got letters assuring me that he must be a terrorist, and scoffing at the notion that a Palestinian could really be working for human rights.

Two highly reliable sources took a different view.

Michael Posner, director of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York, spent hours with Jabarin on visits to Israel in 1987 and 1988.

"I found him to be very professional and careful," Posner said.

"I was impressed by him."

Dedi Zucker is a member of the Knesset and a founder of B'tselem, a group that monitors human rights in the occupied territories.

He met Jabarin as an employee of Al Haq, a Palestinian human rights organisation in the West Bank. "He is an impressive person," Zucker said.

The Jabarin case matters.

A state has locked up a person who monitors human rights violations — and its highest officials have tried to justify the use of force against him.

Human rights monitors in the Soviet Union and Latin America and elsewhere have done courageous and important work.

Al Haq and B'tselem have just jointly won the \$100,000 Carter-Menil award for their work.

But the case matters most of all because it shows how Israel wounds itself by its continued occupation of land inhabited by another people.

Occupation requires force, lawlessness and increasing corruption of one's own moral standards — The New York Times.



Focus of environmental battle shifted in 1989

By Tom Cohen
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — World leaders spent more time talking about the environment in 1989 than ever before, a victory for forces trying to protect the planet.

Now comes the hard part: turning the talk into action.

For decades, environmentalists have tried to raise their issues to the forefront of public awareness. Having achieved that goal, they now face an international battle for money, technology and support that more and more appears to pit industrialised nations of the North against developing countries of the South.

Industrialised nations are pushing for environmental controls in developing countries, which depend on foreign aid and therefore face pressures to comply.

Developing countries contend the wealthier powers gained their riches while destroying the environment, and now are preventing similar development in the South through restrictive environmental demands.

Environmentalists, meanwhile, say changes in political, social and economic structures are needed to halt harmful practices while promoting development.

Brazil launched a project in its vast Amazon rain forests that appears to satisfy most concerns. It calls for protected zones where rain forest dwellers can harvest rubber and other products without harming the land.

Other developments:

— At a world economic sum-

mit in Paris, a third of the 22-page final report addressed environmental problems. It was the first time in the 15-year history of the summit that a non-economic issue figured so prominently in the joint statement by the seven participants: Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany.

"Decisive action is urgently needed to understand and protect the earth's ecological balance," the leaders declared. "We will work together to achieve the common goals of preserving a healthy and balanced global economy."

Their communiqué, however, called for few specific proposals.

A Commonwealth summit this fall in Malaysia issued what a spokesperson called a "landmark statement" on the environment that illustrated the North-South dispute. A majority of members in the Commonwealth, which groups Britain and its former colonies, are developing countries.

The statement called mostly for actions that curb practices of industrialised nations or help developing countries, such as phasing out substances that deplete the ozone layer; halting the dumping of toxic wastes in the Ocean; supporting low-lying and island countries trying to protect themselves from rising sea levels; and restricting non-sustainable fishing practices while seeking a ban on tangle net and open sea drift net fishing.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, considered the architect of the state-

ment, criticised developed nations that condemn Malaysia for its logging practices.

"Poor countries are being forced not to extract wealth from their forests in order to keep the environment safe for the rich," he said.

A conference on global warming in the Netherlands called for stabilising carbon dioxide emissions "as soon as possible."

But two of the world's largest industrialised nations, the United States and Japan, refused to commit themselves to such restrictions by the year 2000.

Some experts believe global warming is caused mainly by the carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, factories and cars in the industrialised world. The pollution in the atmosphere traps heat like a greenhouse, raising the temperature, they say.

U.S. President George Bush said he wants further study of the problem before setting specific levels.

Nicholas Fedoruk, a spokesman for the U.S.-based Environmental Action Foundation, said the United States is the largest contributor of global warming gases "and should be leading efforts to solve the problem."

"Instead," he said, "this country allied itself with some of the world's biggest polluters to stymie meaningful action."

An Ozone conference of 123 nations in London ended with 53 nations agreeing to halve emissions of ozone-destroying chemicals by the end of the century.

The United States and the 12-nation European Economic Community pledged to try to ban the chemicals, called chlorofluorocarbons, by 1999 if safe alternatives can be developed.

Along with giving higher priority to environmental issues, world leaders also acknowledged their inescapable link to the politics and economics of the countries involved.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said the Paris summit came to rapid agreement on the environment because such concerns have "become much more imperative."

Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ith Ali told the United Nations that industrialised countries should enter a "treaty for peace and progress" with developing nations.

The developed countries

should "go beyond mere 'patching up' operations and adopt a radical reform of world economic structures, so as to safeguard the rights of the countries of the south," he said. "The future of the industrialised countries is, to a large extent, closely linked to the economies of Third World countries."

At a November timber conference in Japan, experts from developing and industrialised countries agreed significant measures were needed to save dwindling tropical forests, but couldn't agree on who should pay.

Some delegates argued that tropical wood imports should be taxed to raise money for reforestation. Representatives of developing countries said such a levy would hurt their economies by making their wood exports less competitive.

In Brazil, outgoing President Jose Sarney signed a measure this year setting aside part of the rain forests for so-called "extractivist reserves" — protected areas where natives can harvest exportable products while practicing traditional conservation methods.

The plan was designed to reduce rain forest destruction, defuse simmering violence between ranchers and forest dwellers, and improve living standards for residents of the Amazon.

"What we have seen so far in the way of development was limited to raising cattle, cutting timber and farming — the major causes of destruction of the rain forest," said Fernando Cesar Mesquita, head of the government's environmental institute.

"Extractivism not only is an ecological solution, but it also will bring peace to the region."

Chinese learn more about Eastern Europe

By Guy Dinmore

Reuters

PEKING — China has begun releasing more news to its 1.1 billion people about events sweeping Eastern Europe, apparently reflecting a readiness to deal with new social orders emerging there, analysts in Peking have said.

An East European source, quoting Chinese officials, predicted that the state-controlled media would soon report much more factually Europe's history in the making.

"China is recognising realities in Eastern Europe. They recognise that there is an irreversible trend that they have to accept sooner or later," the source said.

China's Communist Party would eventually establish formal ties with new parties which are emerging in Hungary and Poland, he predicted.

A Western diplomat said events were obliging China to assess more openly developments in Eastern Europe. But he added: "Their instincts lie with the hard-liners."

"In essence the Chinese are very worried about what is hap-

pening. I believe it will confirm their belief in what they did last June, that if they weaken now they are lost," the diplomat commented.

China is still jamming Chinese-language broadcasts on British and U.S. radio stations but official newspapers are giving broader coverage on Eastern Europe.

Guangming daily, read mainly by China's intellectuals, reported on Wednesday that more than 100,000 students and others had demonstrated in Prague on Monday, calling for "multi-party politics," "free elections" and "thorough reforms."

Shanghai's Evening News, with a much wider readership, put the figure at 200,000 in its Tuesday edition and said they demanded that Czechoslovak leader Milos Jakes resign.

Outlook, a weekly magazine, bluntly reported that East Germans were pouring into West Germany and holding non-stop demonstrations.

Guangming Daily quoted the Czechoslovak authorities as describing their protesters as "anti-socialist elements."

Chinese state radio quoted the Prague government as saying

"it was uneasy about activities that destroyed social order and broke confidence in Socialism."

Jakes was reported by the official New China News Agency to have accused groups of "manipulating the Prague demonstrations" — just as China's headline leadership accuses anti-Communist elements of usurping the student movement last spring.

"They report from their own perspective. The stress is on Socialism. I don't see a major shift in policy, a second East European source said, noting that China had recently accused the West of subverting Communism in Eastern Europe and still carefully censored reports on events there.

For Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu, Eastern Europe's last surviving leader in the Stalinist mould, China has expressed strong public support.

Politburo member Qiao Shi attended the 14th congress of the Romanian Communist Party this week and was "deeply impressed by the powerful leadership," the New China News Agency said.

"Qiao wished the Romanian people greater success in their march along the Socialist road," the agency reported.

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Après l'assassinat du président libanais René Moawad

Course électorale contre la montre

L'inhumation du président libanais René Moawad, tué mercredi dans un attentat à Beyrouth, n'est, 17 jours seulement après sa prise de fonction, qu'un événement parmi d'autres. Le président du Parlement, Hussein Husseini, a en effet engagé dès le jour de

l'assassinat de M. Moawad une série de contacts intensifs en vue de réunir au plus vite le quorum de 48 députés nécessaires à l'ouverture de la session électorale. Un deuil national d'une semaine a été décrété par le premier ministre, Salim Hoss, alors que les mesures de condoléances et de condamnation du meurtre du président libanais affluaient du monde entier.



René Moawad

deux tiers des députés pour l'ouverture de la session électorale. Autrement dit, il faut parvenir à réunir 48 des 72 parlementaires actuellement en fonction. D'après certains observateurs, 43 d'entre eux se trouvaient mercredi soir à Beyrouth-Ouest, 10 dans le "pays chrétien" tenu par le général Aoun et la milice des Forces libanaises, opposés à l'élection. Une vingtaine d'autres étaient à l'étranger, notamment en France.

Husseini Husseini pourrait en fait "profiter" des obstacles de René Moawad pour procéder à l'élection d'un nouveau chef de l'Etat. L'entente doit avoir lieu le samedi à Zghorta, village natal du président assassiné, dans le nord du pays sous contrôle syrien. Une majorité de députés y est en effet attendue, ainsi que le représentant de la Ligue arabe pour le Liban, Lakhdar Brahimi.

L'accord de Ta'if fragilisé

Le président du Parlement et Salim Hoss savent que la poursuite du processus d'apaisement entamé le mois dernier à Ta'if, en Arabie Saoudite, dépend de la rapidité du remplacement de René Moawad. Adopté à la quasi-unanimité après de longues tractations par les députés libanais, le "document d'entente nationale" avait ouvert la voie à l'élection du président. Le 5 novembre, une élection, qui mettait fin à 13 mois de vacance de la fonction de chef de l'Etat et devait restaurer un pouvoir central auquel tous les Liba-

Les principales réactions

De nombreux pays ont condamné l'attentat qui a coûté la vie au président libanais mercredi soir ou jeudi matin. La Syrie et le général Aoun, principaux adversaires au Liban, ont dénoncé «ce crime odieux», l'un accusant implicitement l'autre de l'avoir commis. An Naïr, le ministre des Affaires étrangères a qualifié l'attentat de «crime odieux» et a réaffirmé sa «pleine disposition» à aider le Liban. L'Algérie, par la voix de son président, a dénoncé «énergiquement» l'assassinat d'un «homme militant, sacrifiant sa vie pour son pays». Le secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, Cheddi Klibi, a appelé le peuple libanais à «rester uni et à contenir sa passion». Israël a estimé que l'attentat montre que l'Etat hébreu est obligé de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour assurer sa sécurité, notamment au Sud-Liban. Le secrétaire général de l'ONU s'est déclaré «profondément choqué» par ce «meurtre brutal» visant à «détruire les perspectives d'un Liban unifié». Le président américain s'est élevé contre cet «acte de terrorisme scandaleux», tout en appelant les Libanais à élire un nouveau président. L'ambassadeur d'URSS à Damas a estimé que cet acte terroriste représentait un «désastre pour le processus de paix au Liban». En France, le gouvernement a condamné «avec la plus grande vigueur» l'odieux attentat et «formé le vœu» que la «tragédie d'aujourd'hui (...) donne aux Libanais le courage de s'unir pour (...) la paix». En faisant part de son indignation la plus profonde, le président espagnol du Parlement européen a déclaré que la CEE a «l'impression de devoir manifester sa solidarité».

mais, malgré leur divergence, affirmant aujourd'hui encore leur attachement.

Au-delà du rejet du scrutin, tant par le général Aoun (pour cause d'«occupation syrienne») que par le guide spirituel des intégristes pro-syriens (en raison de la confession maronite de l'Etat), la mort de René Moawad vient tragiquement remettre en question l'accord de Ta'if. Elle semble en effet montrer que la réhabilitation des institutions et le réajustement du pouvoir politique, approuvés le 22 octobre, ne constituent pas un moyen sûr de rendre la Paix au Liban.

L'attentat de mercredi illustre aussi le fait que l'appui trop voyant d'une

force étrangère à l'un des acteurs de la tragédie libanaise n'est pas un gage de longévité pour un président. Qu'il s'agisse d'Israël, dont l'armée n'a pu empêcher l'assassinat de Béchir Gemayel en 1982, ou, aujourd'hui de la Syrie.

Une certitude qu'ont sûrement les hommes qui pourraient prétendre dans les jours qui viennent prendre le relais de René Moawad. Si ces hommes ne renoncent à accepter une fonction, qui pour vitale qu'elle soit dans le destin du Liban, se révèle à très hauts risques.

Alain Renon avec agences.

Conférence au CCF Charles Perrault nous est conté

NOËL Favrelière, directeur du Centre culturel français (CCF) depuis septembre et lui-même auteur de contes pour enfants, donne une conférence, mercredi prochain au CCF à 18h00, sur Charles Perrault, qui a offert à la littérature française ses plus célèbres contes, de "Cendrillon" à "Peau d'âne", en passant par "Le petit Poucet" ou "La Belle au bois dormant".

Journaliste: On dit souvent que Charles Perrault est le premier véritable auteur de contes. Pourtant la tradition des conteurs existait bien avant lui...
N.F.: C'est exact. Le génie de Charles Perrault a été d'écrire des contes qui, à travers les siècles, ont traversé les générations. On ne peut pas dire qu'il soit le premier à avoir écrit des contes, mais il a été le premier à les écrire de manière professionnelle. C'est lui qui a donné à la littérature de contes une dimension littéraire. C'est lui qui a écrit "Cendrillon", "Peau d'âne", "Le petit Poucet", "La Belle au bois dormant", etc. C'est lui qui a écrit les contes que nous connaissons aujourd'hui.

J.: D'autres auteurs avant lui ont écrit des contes oraux. Qu'y avait-il de si novateur dans cette mise en œuvre?
N.F.: Avant lui, presque tous les contes étaient écrits en vers. Et, il a écrit les contes en prose. C'est une innovation. C'est lui qui a écrit les contes en prose. C'est lui qui a écrit les contes que nous connaissons aujourd'hui. C'est lui qui a écrit les contes que nous connaissons aujourd'hui. C'est lui qui a écrit les contes que nous connaissons aujourd'hui.

J.: Faut-il comprendre que Charles Perrault était un auteur moraliste?
N.F.: Oui, d'ailleurs ses contes se terminent toujours par une morale.



Noël Favrelière

On pensait protéger les enfants en les abêtissant...

J.J.: Que sait-on de la vie de Charles Perrault?

N.F.: On connaît mal la vie de Charles Perrault. C'est peut-être parce que les Français ne s'intéressent pas assez à leur histoire. On est d'ailleurs injuste avec toute sa famille. Charles avait quatre frères qui devaient tous être célèbres. "La Belle au bois dormant", par exemple, on ne connaît que la première partie. Le prince réveille la princesse endormie, l'épouse et tout finit bien. Mais, il y a une deuxième partie, qui est très belle, très dure et plus intéressante. On n'en trouve trace que dans les œuvres complètes de Perrault, mais les enfants ne la lisent pas. Peut-être a-t-elle été écartée parce qu'il y avait des scènes qui manquaient des enfants. Ce qui ne se produit pas, mais l'évocation seule a décidé les

Propos recueillis par Alain Renon.

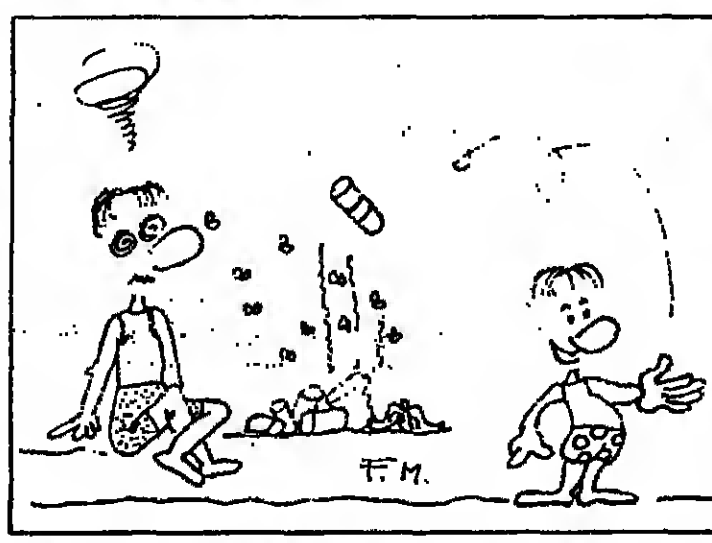
Nomination du nouveau Sénat

Le nouveau Sénat a été nommé mercredi dernier. Le roi Hussein a décrété simultanément la dissolution de l'ancienne Chambre Haute du Parlement, la nomination de 40 sénateurs et le maintien d'Ahmad Lawzi dans sa fonction de président. Le nouveau Sénat s'est enrichi de 10 membres pour atteindre, conformément à la Constitution, la moitié du nombre des députés, qui est passé de 60 à 80 lors de l'élection du 8 novembre, en application d'un amendement de la loi électorale de 1986.

Parmi les 40 sénateurs, 15 membres de la Chambre précédente ont été maintenus à leur poste. Quatre ministres en exercice font leur entrée au Sénat, dont le chef du gouvernement Zeid ben Chaker, le ministre de l'Intérieur, Salem al-Masadeh, le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Marwan al-Kassem, et le ministre des Affaires de la présidence du Conseil, Ibrahim Ezzeddine. La liste des sénateurs comprend aussi 17 anciens ministres, dont Leila Chatat (ancienne ministre de l'Information), première femme à entrer dans la vie parlementaire jordanienne.

Outre des membres de gouvernements, on dénombre 10 officiers, 8 techniciens et un ancien président de la chambre des députés. Akel al-Fayez, par ailleurs chef de la tribu des Bani Sakr, Zeid ben Chaker, qui doit présenter sa démission au roi lundi, juste après la séance d'ouverture du nouveau Parlement, apparaît comme le candidat le mieux placé à sa propre succession à la tête du gouvernement. (D'après agences).

Soyons propres Publicité à la JTV



Gardez votre pays propre. Chaque soir depuis deux mois, les téléspectateurs des deux chaînes de la JTV s'entendent dire une vérité simple: l'environnement est aussi votre affaire. Une vérité, qui a en outre l'initiative de la campagne, n'a rien de superficiel. «Nous recevons beaucoup de gens qui se plaignent des déchets accumulés sur les bords de la Mer Morte, les sources chaudes de Ma'in...», explique Nasser Attala, directeur général du tourisme au ministère du même nom. «Voilà des années que nous parlons de l'environnement, mais sans passer aux actes, souligne-t-il. Comme la propreté du pays est une préoccupation qui rejoint le tourisme, j'ai décidé de faire quelque chose. L'effort qui devra, selon lui, être fait auprès des écoles. «On ne peut pas sensibiliser la population par des initiatives isolées, insiste-t-il. Il faut une véritable coordination entre les différents ministères et organismes impliqués dans le secteur de l'environnement». La preuve: «Il y a quatre ans, j'ai entrepris le nettoyage d'Ajloun, se souvient Nasser Attala. Personne n'a pris le relais. Ça n'a donc servi à rien sinon à me valoir des reproches des communes avoisinantes qui m'ont demandé pourquoi je ne faisais pas la même chose sur leur territoire». L'objectif de sa campagne n'est pas de changer à lui tout seul les mentalités mais bien plutôt de voir s'amorcer une prise de conscience collective. «Bien que ces publicités nous reviennent cher, nous allons essayer de les maintenir à un rythme quotidien pendant un an, en variant les sujets», assure-t-il. Tout en reconnaissant qu'il s'agit d'un problème très «sensible» en Jordanie, «il ne faut pas dire aux gens qu'ils sont sales, mais les inviter à prendre soin de leur milieu de vie. Le message n'est manifestement pas évident à faire passer comme en témoigne le refus des acteurs jordanien de participer au tournage des spots publicitaires... Mauvais pour l'image de marque, paraît-il.

EN BREF

Mmr. «Merci de m'avoir apporté ce morceau du mur. Je le chérirai!», a déclaré George Bush à Hans-Dietrich Genscher, le ministre ouest-allemand des Affaires étrangères, qui lui a remis, mardi à la Maison Blanche, un morceau de béton gris issu du mur de Berlin. Remarquable que l'Allemagne de l'Est est maintenant réellement en train de devenir une République démocratique. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, en outre, avec ce cadeau symbolique, exprime sa «gratitude pour le soutien» des USA «au cours de la dernière décennie».

RDA. Le mouvement d'opposition est-allemand Nouveau Forum a lancé, lundi soir, un appel pour organiser demain une «chaine humaine» à travers toute la RDA afin d'obtenir plus de démocratie et des élections libres. Nouveau Forum veut plus précisément la suppression de l'article premier de la Constitution qui établit le rôle dirigeant du Parti communiste, ainsi que la participation de l'opposition dans le gouvernement.

Mitterrand. Le président français François Mitterrand poursuit les visites officielles dans les pays de l'Est, qu'il avait entamées bien avant les bouleversements politiques qui secouent les pays du Pacte de Varsovie. Il rencontrera Mikhail Gorbatchev à Kiev le 6 décembre, pour discuter des «développements inter-nationaux et de la situation européenne», et ce trois jours après le sommet informel de Malte entre MM. Gorbatchev et Bush. Ensuite, François Mitterrand se rendra, du 20 au 22 décembre, en RDA. Une visite d'Etat, qui répond à l'invitation du numéro un est-allemand, Egon Krenz.

Jade. L'élection des 524 députés de la Chambre basse du parlement indien a commencé mercredi avec de nombreux affrontements entre partisans du premier ministre Rajiv Gandhi et de son rival, Vishwanath Prasad Singh, l'un des leaders de la coalition centriste. Les affrontements auraient déjà fait une quarantaine de morts. Le scrutin se poursuivra jusqu'à demain soir et les résultats ne seront connus qu'à partir de lundi. Selon les sondages, le Parti du Congrès de Rajiv Gandhi pourrait être chassé du pouvoir par une opposition unie, qui regroupe une coalition de cinq partis centristes, un parti de droite et les communistes.

Shamir. Au terme d'une visite de 48 heures entamée mardi dernier, Yitzhak Shamir a quitté la France sans que ses entretiens avec François Mitterrand n'aient permis un rapprochement des points de vue français et israélien sur la question palestinienne. La France, tout comme la CEE, soutient le plan Shal et préconise une conférence internationale sur le Moyen-Orient où l'OLP aurait le droit de siéger. Israël, de son côté, n'accepte le plan Baker que sous conditions et refuse d'entamer un dialogue avec l'OLP.

Retour. Thierry Nappety, le jeune coopérant français emprisonné pendant plusieurs jours au Salvador, est arrivé à Paris lundi dernier. En poste au lycée français de San Salvador, depuis septembre 1988, Thierry Nappety avait été arrêté le 12 novembre dans la capitale salvadorienne. Le jeune homme, joint au téléphone sur le chemin du retour, avait déclaré qu'il n'avait subi aucune violence. Il a cependant ajouté, à sa descente d'avion à Paris, qu'il a «été soumis à un traitement d'investigation très poussée de la part des autorités salvadoriennes».

Enfance. L'ONU a adopté, lundi, par consensus la première Convention sur les Droits de l'Enfant, le protégeant dans sa dignité ainsi que dans ses droits moraux, sociaux, juridiques et culturels. Dix ans auront été nécessaires pour préparer, discuter puis finalement adopter cette Convention en 54 articles, qui définit l'enfant comme «un être humain âgé de moins de 18 ans sauf si la majorité est atteinte plus tôt en vertu de la législation qui lui est applicable».

Iran. Les Iraniens sont aujourd'hui 55 millions, selon Majid Jamshidi, directeur du Centre iranien des statistiques. 29 millions vivent en zone urbaine, dont 7,3 millions à Téhéran, où le taux de croissance a atteint 4%. «Si des mesures radicales ne sont pas prises, pour enrayer cette croissance, les Téhéranais connaîtront bientôt d'insurmontables problèmes», a commenté Majid Jamshidi. Avec un taux de croissance de 3,2%, la population iranienne atteindra 100 millions en 2007 et 140 millions en 2021.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA
Révolution. Le centre culturel français, l'Institut Goethe et le British Council présentent tout au long de ce mois une série de films consacrés aux événements de 1789. Cette semaine:
A Tale of two cities, de Thomas Ralph, avec Dirk Bogarde (1958). Chronique d'une certaine France sous la Terreur.
British Council, dimanche 26 novembre à 18h00 (en anglais).

Les Mariés de l'an II, De Jean-Paul Rappeneau, avec Jean-Paul Belmondo et Marlene Jobert (1971). Deux époux à la recherche l'un de l'autre à travers un pays déchiré par la Révolution.

Centre culturel français, mardi 28 novembre à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Bird, de Clint Eastwood, avec Forest Whitaker et Diane Venora (1988). La vie du grand jazziste Charles Parker. Illustrée par une excellente bande sonore des grands moments de Monsieur «Yardbird».

Centre américain, dimanche 26 et jeudi 30 novembre à 19h00.

Ciné-club. Séances à 13h00, 15h00, 18h30 et 20h00. Nouveau film le lundi à 20h00; projection pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 15h00. Cycle du mois: les passions à l'écran.

Summit 25: Space hunter. Taxi driver. Night fighters. Time after time. Cousins (USA).

Ulysse 26: Pretty in pink. Ça pleut. Heat and dust. Against all odds. People in Rio.

Lundi 27: Crazy for you. Streets of fire. A room with a view. Night school. Angel heart.

Mardi 28: Pirate movie. Heaven on wheels. Carmen (Sears). Gipsy camp goes to the sky. Tough guys don't dance.

Centre culturel français, mardi 28 novembre à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Centre américain, dimanche 26 et jeudi 30 novembre à 19h00.

Centre culturel français, mercredi 29 novembre à 18h00 (en français).

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European reforms improve East-West growth in trade

GENEVA (AP) — Economic and political reforms in the Soviet Bloc have helped boost East-West trade this year and set the scene for more intense economic integration in Europe, a U.N. official said Thursday.

But the report warned that structural problems and uncompetitive industries made prospects for a further increase in exports from the Soviet Union Eastern Europe uncertain.

Following Hungary and Poland as examples, it called for further measures to encourage foreign investment that will help the process of economic liberalisation.

The report by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) predicted that the Soviet Bloc's net indebtedness to the West in 1989 would remain at last year's level of about \$99 billion, with Romania's repayment of foreign loans helping to offset a predicted increase in the Soviet Union's debt.

The 34-nation U.N. commission is the only economic forum bringing together Eastern and Western Europe, the Soviet Union, the United States and Canada.

Growth in East European exports to the developed market economies slowed to four per cent in the first half of 1989 from six per cent last year, slackening further as the year progressed, the report said.

By contrast, East European

imports increased by 13 per cent, mainly due to higher purchases by East Germany, Poland and Hungary.

The report warned that despite increasing sales opportunities to the West, it was uncertain whether East Europe would be able to expand exports in the future because of its poor commodity structure and the declining competitiveness of its manufactured goods.

The region's net indebtedness, however, was expected to decline by \$2 billion in 1989 to \$71 billion because of the appreciation of the U.S. dollar and Romania's repayment of its foreign debt.

Sales of Soviet goods to the West expanded by nine per cent between January and June, while the growth of imports increased to 11 per cent. Imports continued to grow in the third quarter of the year, although exports fell back markedly, the report said.

The Soviet trade deficit with the West widened during 1989 despite the favourable price developments caused by the strengthening of oil prices and of the dollar.

The U.N. commission forecast

the deficit would worsen to more than \$4 billion for the full year, compared with \$2.7 billion in 1988.

Citing traditional Soviet reluctance to curb import growth and lower its trade deficit, the report predicted a \$3 to \$4 billion increase in the country's net debt to a total of \$28 billion by the end of the year.

The ECE predicted that the growing Soviet need for a wide range of imports and poor prospects for export expansion would combine to increase its foreign debt further at the start of the next decade.

This, in turn, was likely to lead to pressure to curb imports in the longer term, it said.

"However, the many new developments in the more relaxed political atmosphere, further progress in economic reform — clearly indicate that East-West economic relations are entering a new phase," it said.

These relations "have been characterised by an unprecedented confidence of developments set in motion by economic and political reforms under way in a number of Eastern countries," the report said.

It added that the reforms constituted a base for more intense regional integration.

USSR loosens law of leasing

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet legislature loosened the state's grip on the economy Thursday by allowing workers in businesses leased from the state to own the goods they produce.

Economist Pavel Bunich said the law should make workers "genuinely interested in the results of their work."

One of the Soviet economy's fundamental problems is that workers' pay does not depend on the quality of their work. State ownership of factories and goods also leads to widespread theft by workers.

The law passed by the Supreme Soviet expands leasing, first begun on a limited basis last year, to all branches of the economy and deprives government agencies of the right to veto the transfer of state-owned property to leaseholders.

"Leasing will lead to the formation of commodity-market relations and will make it possible to change the economic situation in the country for the better as soon as next year," said Sergei Akseyev, chairman of the parliament's legislative committee.

President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet officials have been quick to point out that the law does not mean the state is abandoning one of the tenets of Marxism, its ownership of the means of production.

The law, which takes effect Jan. 1, says all output produced on a leased basis belongs to the workers involved and that they can buy out a business they had leased from the state.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

ACC committee proposes joint projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-member technical committee set up by the federations of chambers of industry and commerce in the countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) has concluded a meeting in Amman to discuss the establishment of a holding company to organise investments in joint projects. A statement issued Thursday said that a draft agreement was drawn up on the establishment of the company to be submitted to the ACC ministerial council which is due to convene in Sanaa, capital of North Yemen, by the end of March 1990. The committee reviewed various areas where joint industries can be set up and decided that the four countries, Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan, can pool their efforts through the holding company to carry out engineering, food supplies, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. According to Khalid Abu Hassan, who represented Jordan at the meeting, the Sanaa ministerial meeting will decide on priorities in such projects. Abu Hassan said that the holding company will be entrusted with proposing projects that can be financed by the four states and focus their attention on ways to exploit primary materials produced in the four countries.

Austrians offer opportunities to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Austrian trade mission is scheduled to stay in Amman Nov. 25 and 26. Representatives of ten Austrian companies will meet local businessmen and discuss possible cooperation in the fields of railway engineering, bulk handling equipment, electric power engineering, thermal insulation systems, abrasives, meat processing, industrial and mining equipment, fruit juices production as well as banking services. The composition of the trade mission reflects the changed economic environment of Jordan which aims to increase exports and substitute imports by upgrading local production facilities. The experience and equipment available from the participating Austrian companies should support this adjustment programme. Austria, a reputed supplier of quality equipment and materials, could contribute substantially to Jordan's development. Among others the Arab Potash Co. was erected by leading Austrian industrial enterprise, a large fleet of Austrian made trucks are continuously running on Jordan's road and Royal Jordanian uses hanger facilities designed and erected by Austrian engineers. The TV-centre in Amman was planned and built by a consortium of highly specialised Austrian companies. 1988 Austria's exports to Jordan amounted to Austrian schilling 412 million (appr. \$30 million). On the other hand, Austrian imports of Jordanian agricultural products are currently increasing and thousands of Austrians choose Jordan as their holiday destination.

Algerian trade mission arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — An Algerian trade delegation is due here Saturday on a six-day visit to Jordan to discuss prospects for boosting trade with the Kingdom. The delegation, which groups representatives of various economic sectors in Algeria, will submit a working paper outlining the economic reforms in the North African country, and Algeria's economic relations and foreign trade, according to Mohammed Asfour, Chairman of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce who will hold meetings with the Algerian group. Asfour said that means of developing economic and trade relations between Jordan and Algeria would be discussed during the visit; and the Algerian visitors would be taken on tours of various industrial and commercial installations around the country. He also said that the Jordanian side will submit a working paper at the meeting, outlining local laws and regulations governing trade with Arab and foreign countries.

UDD awards new development project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A local construction company has won a contract to develop one of the poor districts of Amman benefiting some 5,000 people, according to an agreement signed here Thursday between the local firm and the Urban Development Department (UDD). UDD Director-General Hisham Al Zaghah said in a statement after the signing ceremony that the company will develop the Jabal Al Amir Ali district by laying a canal network to drain away rain water after reorganising the whole district so that building operations can be controlled. A total of 9,722 metre canal network for the rain water will be laid, pedestrian paths will be built, telephone cables will be laid and retaining walls will be constructed in the district as part of the project, according to Zaghah.

Hungary admits 'wrong debt figures'

BUDAPEST (R) — Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth has revealed that Hungary had falsified its foreign debt figures since the 1970s and that its gross debt would exceed \$20 billion by the end of this year. The figure is about \$2 billion higher than the \$17.8 billion published by the National Bank of Hungary as total foreign debt at the end of August. The earlier figure was already the highest per capita in Eastern Europe. Nemeth told parliament false figures had been published in the past for fear that authentic ones would endanger talks with foreign financial institutions.

Morocco to privatise banks, 37 hotels and 72 industries

RABAT (R) — Morocco plans to privatise four banks, 37 hotels and 72 other state-controlled enterprises within the next six years, an official source said Thursday.

The list tabled by the finance ministry to a parliamentary committee last week represents about a tenth of businesses controlled by the state or with an important minority stake.

Groups affected include the Societe Nationale Des Telecommunications, the Sonasid steel mill at Nador on the Mediterranean, the Somaca automobile assembly plant and general tire factory in Casablanca, and 10 sugar factories.

The banks are Banque Marocaine Du Commerce Exterieur,

Banque Nationale De Developpement Economique, Banque Du Credit Populaire, and Caisse Immobiliere Et Hoteliere. An investment promotion group, Societe Nationale d'Investissements, is also included.

Others affected are the Sochepre newspaper distribution company, the Office Nationale Du Sucre and 45 subsidiaries of state agencies active in the industrial, mining, petroleum and financial sectors.

They include manufacturers of cement, clothing, footwear, computers, machine tools and cellulose, coal, lead and zinc mines, and distributors of petroleum products.

They 37 hotels are mainly small

ones in inland towns but include larger Tour Hassan in Rabat, the Zalah and Merzouga in Fez, the Almoravides, N'fis and Toubkal in Marrakesh.

At its current session parliament is due to debate draft legislation setting out the broad outlines of the privatisation process.

The draft contains safeguards designed to prevent the enterprises being controlled by foreigners or by local private monopolies.

Part of the government's economic liberalisation policies, the enterprises are to be transferred to private ownership either through the financial market or by calling for tenders, or a combination of both.

New mutual fund by CCS opens Wall Street to Israelis

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis can invest in the New York Stock Exchange for the first time through a new mutual fund introduced by the Central Company for Securities (CCS), a private brokerage house, a company manager has said.

The introduction of the new fund was made possible after the central bank and the finance ministry authorised Israeli companies to open new mutual funds that invest up to 50 per cent in foreign markets.

All Israeli investments on Wall Street will be carried out by the American investment bank Shearson Lehman Hutton, which joined CCS in managing the fund.

Shearson is the second largest U.S. brokerage house, managing some 40 mutual funds with assets of over \$67 billion.

The CCS fund, entitled "dollar," will permit Israelis to invest in foreign markets and thus reduce the political risk of invest-

ing in Israel only, a senior manager at CCS said.

"It is also the best protection against a possible devaluation in the local exchange rate," he said.

The CCS is the first to introduce such a mutual fund but most large banking institutions are expected to announce soon similar funds of their own.

Commercial banks control 90 per cent of Israel's brokerage activities.

Maxwell makes bid for Israeli conglomerate

Meanwhile, British tycoon Robert Maxwell has made a \$250 million bid to buy a stake in the Israeli CLAL conglomerate, a Maxwell spokesman has said.

CLAL is the second-largest Israeli concern, publicly traded and controlled by the Israeli Discount Bank and Bank Hapoalim. It has businesses in textile, electronics, industry, insurance and

finance. Maxwell's \$250 million bid would represent about 50 per cent of CLAL's capital.

The two banks initially rejected Maxwell's offer, made last week, but they were continuing negotiations, said the spokesman for the Gitam public relations firm which represents Maxwell in Israel.

Maxwell has invested \$70 million in three Israeli concerns — the daily newspaper Maariv, Teva pharmaceutical company and Sotex Electronics.

He said in a radio interview that he was satisfied with his Israeli investments.

"My intention in the Israeli media is to become associated with the leading-edge companies," he said of the Maariv deal.

Maxwell said CLAL was a well-managed company but needed foreign investors to improve business with Europe and the United States.

Japan pledges to give Poland \$150m

TOKYO (R) — Japan pledged Friday to contribute \$150 million to a \$1 billion fund Poland has requested from the West to stabilise its economy and currency.

But Tokyo shied away from making any other specific commitments to Poland or Hungary, partly because of internal squabbles over the shape of next year's budget.

"The reforms which are currently taking place in Poland, Hungary and other East European nations are promoting freedom, democracy and market economies," government spokeswoman Mayumi Moriyama told a news conference.

"That these aims are successfully achieved is indispensable not only for the stability of Europe but also for the health of East-West relations," she added. Japan has come under pressure from the United States and other Western nations to put some of the money earned from its huge trade surplus to work in helping further economic and political reforms in East Europe.

Moriyama said Japan was considering a number of measures to

help Poland and Hungary, but nothing had been finalised. Measures under consideration are:

— Emergency food aid for Poland. Warsaw was specifically asked Tokyo to provide it with wheat.

— Loans from the Export-Import Bank of Japan for the development of Poland and Hungary, including funds to encourage Japanese investment there. Warsaw must first reach agreement with its major creditor countries on what to do about its debt arrears.

— Insuring Japanese companies trading with Poland against possible losses due to political uncertainty. Japan had earlier suspended such insurance for Poland due to the country's economic problems. Tokyo will also consider extending additional trade insurance to Hungary.

Technological cooperation to both countries for management training and environmental protection.

Government sources said Japan's contribution to the \$1 billion Polish fund will come from

extra money budgeted in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1990.

They said the money for other financial help would come from the planned supplementary budget for the current fiscal year or from the full budget for the next fiscal year.

Because the government is now in the final budget-making process, it cannot give specific sums for the Polish aid measures at the moment, the sources said.

Japan's promise to put up \$150 million for the Polish fund depends on Poland reaching agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a plan to reform its straggled economy. Japanese officials said an IMF agreement is likely by the end of this year, allowing Japan to go ahead with a \$150 million loan early in 1990.

Moriyama told the news conference that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development could decide next month to designate Poland as a developing country, making it eligible for more aid.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday November 23, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	103.6	104.6
U.S. dollar	640.0	646.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.8	450.3
Pound Sterling	1001.2	1011.2	Dutch guilder	312.9	316.0
Deutschemark	352.9	356.4	Swedish crown	99.6	100.6
Swiss franc	377.0	401.0	Italian lira (for 100)	47.9	48.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	168.2	169.9

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Nov. 18-22	Nov. 11-15
Daily average	JD 1,560,309	JD 1,728,006
Total volume	JD 7,801,546	JD 6,912,023
Transactions	3,455,905	3,107,238
	+0.42	3.889

Sectoral trading:

	JD 5,824,294	JD 4,814,553
	(74.7%)	(69.7%)
Financial	JD 1,283,473	JD 1,606,287
	(16.5%)	(23.2%)
	(7.4%)	(6.4%)
	(0.7%)	

Share price index	134.4	134.3
No. of companies	57	61
Price movement (rise)	23	18
(decline)	19	20
(stable)	15	23

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5650/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1665/75	Canadian dollar
	1.8003/13	Deutschemarks
	2.0305/12	Dutch guilders
	1.6100/10	Swiss francs
	37.82/85	Belgian francs
	6.1375/425	French francs
	1329/1330	Italian lire
	143.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.3550/4000	Swedish crowns
	6.8425/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.9875/925	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	415.90/416.40	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Share prices slid to a sharply weaker close after drifting slowly down earlier in the day. The All Ordinaries closed 16.1 down at 1,615.0.

TOKYO — Stocks zoomed to another record close on scattered buying with foreign arbitrageurs at the fore in late trade. The Nikkei index surged 197.55 to close at 36,484.47.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended firmer after quiet, lacklustre trading. The Hang Seng index rose 5.26 to 1,849.41.

SINGAPORE — The stock market continued its upward trend on sustained buying interest from institutions and speculators. The Straits Times industrial index jumped 7.22 to close at 1,385.27.

BOMBAY — Markets closed for national elections.

FRANKFURT — Shares rose more than one per cent, buoyed by a long-awaited recovery in German bonds. The real-time DAX index closed 20.80 points higher at 1,555.48.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed higher across the board after extending their early gains in moderate trading. The performance index put on 10.6 to 1,127.8.

PARIS — French share prices ended near their day's highs in relatively active trading. The CAC-40 index ended 14.53 at 1,858.09.

LONDON — Shares remained weak despite a strong start on Wall Street, as concern about sterling weakness dominated sentiment. By 1554 GMT the FTSE index was 2.9 down at 2,217.6.

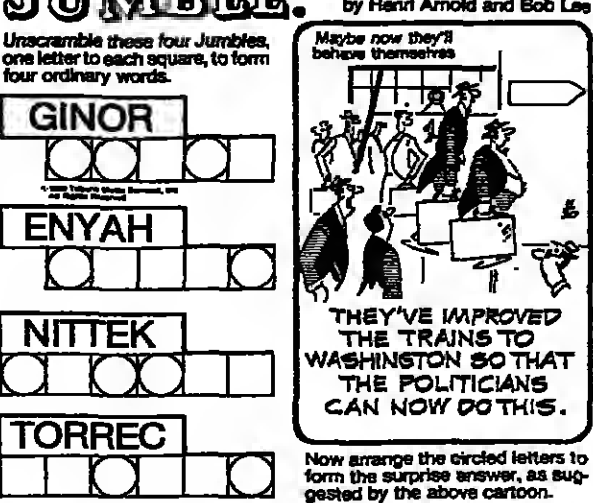
NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks rose to session highs on expectations that major banks will lower their prime rate. At 1617 GMT the Dow was 18.77 higher at 2,672.55.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"There's a notice in the Personals Section signed H.P. Is that you?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

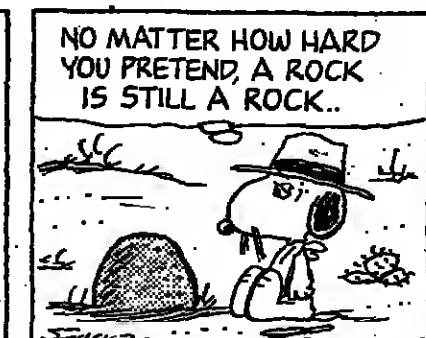
Answer: GET ON THE JUMBLE. PHONE ENVOY CHORUS RANGID

Saturday's Answer: What kids get a big bang out of — THE SCREEN DOOR

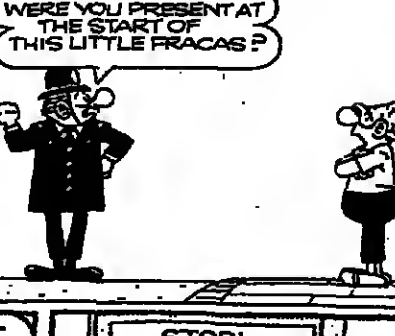
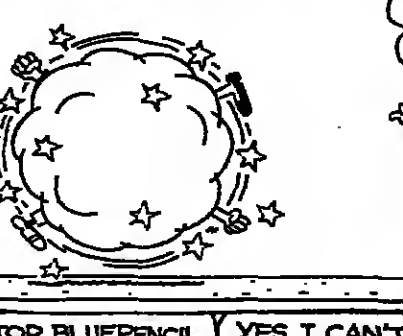
Jordan Times

667171-6

Peanuts



Andy Capp

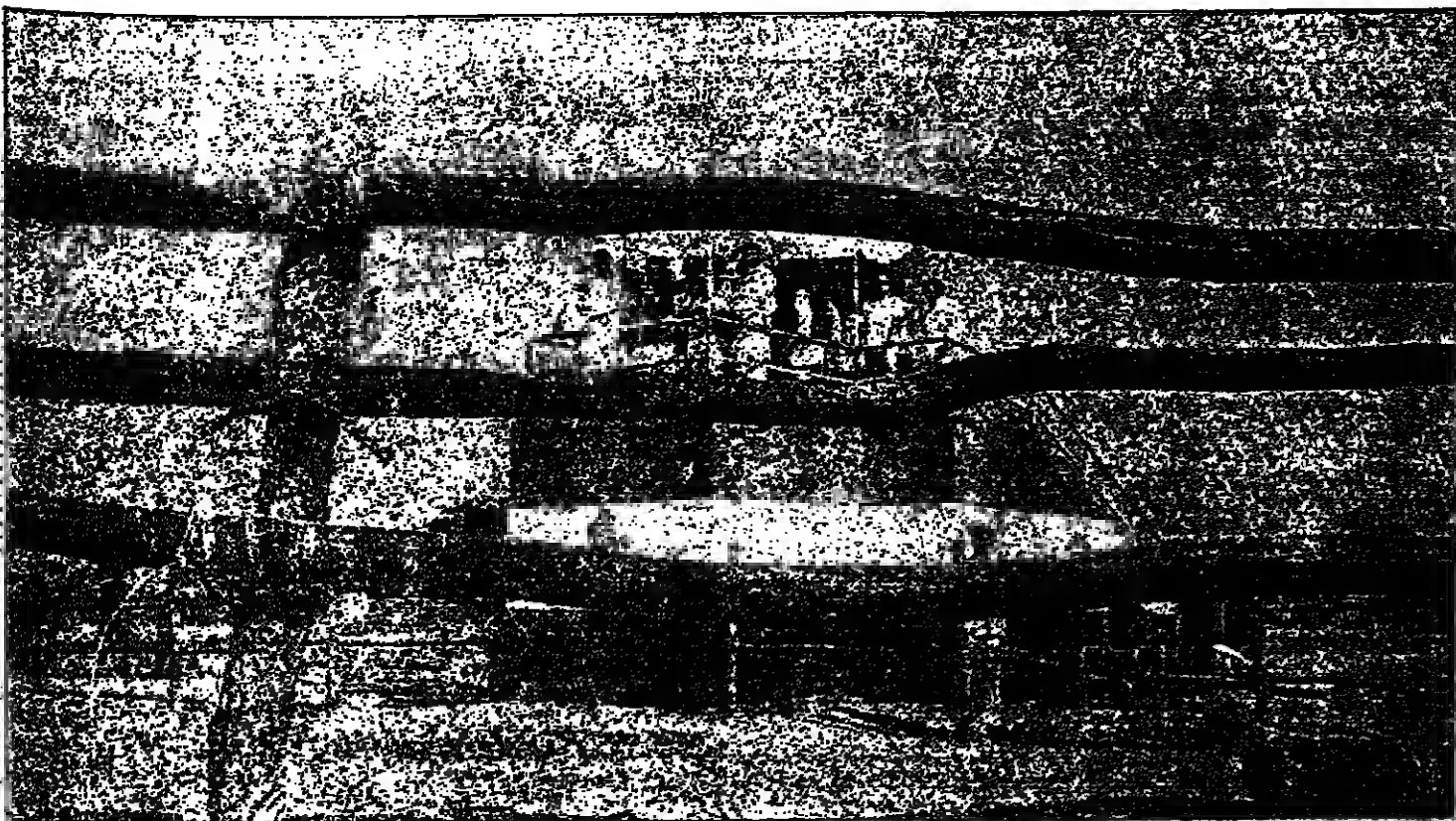


Mutt'n' Jeff



"I was in pain, but there was no way I going to lose, Fench said.

100



Barrier to success?.... Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in last-minute election campaigning.

India polls amid rigging charges

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Voting began in some of India's most volatile regions Friday as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi flew to Punjab to make a final appeal for another five years in power.

Bihar, West Bengal and parts of Uttar Pradesh were among 10 states voting on the second day of the national poll.

Last month several hundred people died in the north Indian state of Bihar during savage communal riots.

At least 34 people were killed on the first day of polling Wednesday, leading to charges from both Gandhi's Congress Party and the opposition National Front alliance of widespread intimidation and electoral fraud.

Gandhi, harried by an angry crowd Thursday from entering a Lucknow hospital to visit a wounded political rival, appealed for peace.

"There is no place for violence in our democratic system," Gandhi told reporters after calling off the visit to opposition politician Sanjay Singh, a former family friend.

Singh, a nephew of opposition

leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh, was shot twice Wednesday in Gandhi's Amethi seat where he is fighting for a state assembly seat.

More than half India's 498 million electorate, the world's biggest, were eligible to vote for the 266 parliamentary seats being contested Friday, including V.P. Singh's Fatehpur constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

The national election commission Thursday threw out thousands of ballots cast Wednesday and ordered an investigation into charges of widespread vote rigging in the constituency where Gandhi is seeking reelection.

Authorities feared violence in northern Bihar, an impoverished state with a reputation for corruption and "first-come, first-served" voting started Friday in Bihar and was to continue Sunday, the last day of the election.

Results are expected to be announced Sunday night and Monday.

At stake are 524 of the 543 seats in Lok Sabha, or house of the people, the law-making lower house of parliament. Several races have been postponed be-

cause of incomplete voter rolls and candidates' deaths.

Election Commissioner R.V.S. Peri Sastri said Thursday that complaints of fraud and violence had been received "from almost all" the 221 constituencies that voted Wednesday.

Ballots had to be thrown out and new elections ordered in 636 of the estimated 150,000 places, he said.

He said investigations had been ordered into alleged irregularities, including those in Amethi where Gandhi is running against Raj Mohan Gandhi, the grandson of India's beloved independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi.

"We will withhold the result from Amethi until the inquiry is completed," Sastri said.

Sanjay Singh, an opposition leader who was Gandhi's campaign manager in the December 1984 elections, was wounded during a shootout Wednesday in Amethi, said the National Front.

Two fellow campaign workers also were wounded.

Sanjay Singh defected to the opposition two years ago with his

wife's uncle and the man expected to become prime minister if the opposition wins — V.P. Singh.

Friday was the last day of campaigning for Punjab and Sikkim go to the polls Sunday.

Gandhi went to Punjab after two hectic days of campaigning in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Both states are vital for his party if it is to confound opinion poll predictions that it will fail to get an overall majority in parliament.

Previous visits to Punjab have involved massive security to protect Gandhi from Sikh extremists who swear to assassinate him as they did his mother and predecessor Indira Gandhi in 1984.

Gandhi, a former airline pilot propelled into power by his mother's killing, has pledged to bring peace to the prosperous agricultural state bordering Pakistan.

He was visiting Bhatinda and Ludhiana, away from areas where extremists campaigning for an independent homeland are most active. Some 1,900 people have died in the violence this year.

Thatcher ready to face two more elections

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has rebuffed an unprecedented challenge to her leadership of the governing Conservative Party by saying she is ready to face two more general elections.

The Times of London quoted her as saying this week, "by popular acclaim (in the party) I am happy to carry on."

The paper described it as an astonishing move by the 64-year-old Thatcher, who Thursday flew to the United States for talks with U.S. President George Bush.

She came to power when the Conservatives won the 1979 general election. She is now in her third term after Conservative victories in the 1983 and 1987 general elections.

But her government is in-

creasingly unpopular, due in part to a 7.3 per cent annual inflation rate, interest rates at 15 per cent, planned changes to the free national health service and a widely disliked new local government tax.

The Conservatives now trail the opposition Labour Party by up to 13 points in opinion polls.

Thatcher's standing as party leader was badly dented when Nigel Lawson resigned as chancellor of the exchequer and Sir Alan Walters resigned as her personal economic adviser, both on Oct. 26.

They quit following a row between them over currency strategy. Lawson was incensed by Thatcher's refusal to heed his demands for her to sack Walters after the row blew up.

The Times said the interview with the prime minister was

conducted this week but did not state the day.

It said Thatcher's announcement that she was ready to fight two more elections can be expected to goad her opponents in the party into new determination to challenge her leadership.

The next general election is due by mid-1992, the one after by mid-1997. In October 1997 Thatcher will be 72.

Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe joined Tory Chairman Kenneth Baker and Tory elder statesman Lord Whitelaw Thursday in denouncing attempts to unseat her.

They were reacting to an announcement Wednesday by rank-and-file Tory legislator Sir Anthony Meyer that he will challenge Thatcher for the lead-

ership when she comes up for her annual re-election.

Meyer conceded he was an outsider with no chance of defeating her but said he would go ahead with his candidacy unless a higher-profile nominee emerged.

Meyer said he hoped to provoke sufficient abstentions to send her a message of disenchantment and possibly lure a major challenger into the race if it goes to a second round of voting.

Howe and Baker are regarded as possible Thatcher successors, but both made clear their distaste for a contest.

Party rules require the leadership election to be held by Dec. 19. She must win the votes of at least 57 per cent of the 374 Tories in the House of Commons to win outright.

Recruit scandal trial opens in Tokyo court

TOKYO (AP) — Two defendants denied bribery charges Friday as the first trial opened in the Recruit influence-buying scandal, which toppled a government and is still shaking up Japanese politics.

Five trials are starting between Friday and Dec. 15 to try two leading politicians, six bureaucrats and four executives of the Recruit co.

Recruit, an information and publishing conglomerate, is accused of trying to win government favours and influence by showering huge donations and cut-price stock deals on the elite of Japanese politics, bureaucracy and business.

The scandal was the most widespread ever in Japanese politics, and the trials are expected to delve deeply into issues involving the structure of Japanese society.

Takashi Kato, 59, a former vice minister of Labour, denied Friday doing any favours for the Recruit Company in exchange for bargain-priced shares in a subsidiary of the conglomerate.

But he conceded that he netted a profit of about seven million yen (\$49,000) on shares bought cheaply from Recruit, and he apologised for his role in the affair.

"Because of a lack of discretion, I have considerably damaged the credibility of the Labour

administration and caused trouble for the government and the court, and I deeply regret it," Kato said in Tokyo district court.

His codefendant, Masao Tatsuami, 47, a former Recruit executive, denied playing any role as an intermediary between Kato and Recruit's founder and former chairman, Hiromasa Ezoe.

Ezoe is to be tried starting Dec. 15 on seven counts of bribery.

"I have never discussed the stock deal with Mr. Kato and Mr. Ezoe, and I have no knowledge about the details of the stock deal with Mr. Kato," Tatsuami said.

The prosecution alleges that Kato influenced Labour Ministry regulations in a way that benefited Recruit's booming business.

As the trials started, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu renewed his pledge of political reform, Japan's traditions of money politics and close links between business and government lie beneath the specific allegations of bribery in the Recruit scandal.

"This is an incident that should never be repeated," Kaifu told reporters, according to Kyodo news service and Japan Broadcasting Corporation.

Kaifu said his governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was following new guidelines curbing political donations from corporations.

De Klerk orders fresh anti-apartheid move

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — President F.W. de Klerk has proclaimed business ownership in Boksburg open to all races, despite efforts by the town council to maintain strict segregation.

Boksburg, an industrial town 20 kilometres east of Johannesburg, has attracted international attention since members of the far-right Conservative Party won control of its council last year and reimposed rigid apartheid.

The council segregated public toilets, the park, the library and a sports complex. Blacks responded with a boycott of white-owned businesses and have been using the public facilities in defiance of the council.

Blacks called off the year-old boycott last week after de Klerk, leader of the National Party, called for the repeal of the Separate Amenities Act, a national law that allows for the segregation of many public facilities. Housing, schools and hospitals are not covered by the act and will remain segregated nationwide.

The national government has the authority to overrule municipalities on some issues, including the question of whether blacks can own businesses in downtown areas.

"We've succeeded in bringing Boksburg to the attention of people everywhere," said Jerry Jeffreys, secretary of the anti-apartheid Save Boksburg Committee.

"The government had no choice but to act."

De Klerk's proclamation, which allows a person of any race to operate a business in Boksburg, is partly symbolic, Jeffreys said.

Black businessmen probably will keep their shops in the black townships, he said. However, Indian shopkeepers in Boksburg's downtown business district no longer will face the possibility of eviction because of race, he said.

The Conservative Party said in a statement that de Klerk's proclamation is an attempt to "destroy white community life."

Mandela contacts

Jailed anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, whose release is expected within months, is meeting regularly with government ministers, a fellow African National Congress (ANC) leader said Thursday.

Meanwhile, in Lusaka, ANC leaders and members of the South Africa-based opposition Mass Democratic Movement met with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, one of the staunchest opponents of South Africa's racial policies.

The ANC, based in Lusaka, is the main black group attempting to undermine the white-led government.

Party opens probe against Honecker

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — The embattled East German Communist Party has opened a probe against ousted leader Erich Honecker and expelled the former economy chief from the party, blaming them for the crisis gripping the country.

The move reflects the party's attempts to restore its rapidly sinking credibility and authority amid growing demands that the Communists give up their constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power.

New Communist Party chief Egon Krenz said in an interview with West German television that he was ready to step down if that is the decision of next month's emergency party congress.

The Central Control Commission, responsible for party discipline, said Thursday it was investigating Honecker, former politburo member Guenter Mittag and a top regional official, Hans Albrecht, because they had broken the rules.

Mittag, a Honecker associate who was responsible for the economy until they were both dismissed on Oct. 18, was expelled from the party. He was the highest-ranking official to suffer this fate in East Germany's current turmoil.

Krenz said on West German television that Honecker had told him by telephone that he accepted "a great measure of responsibility" for the country's present situation.

After ousting Honecker, Krenz bowed to enormous public pressure for change and put East Germany on the same reformist road as Poland and Hungary.

He threw open the borders to the West, abandoned controls on freedom of speech and assembly, and paved the way for reformist Prime Minister Hans Modrow to form a coalition government with four small non-communist parties.

The party commission said Honecker, 77, would not have to face questioning from disciplinary officials because he was too ill. But by starting a formal inquiry into him, the party has prepared the ground for expelling Honecker from its ranks.

The commission said Honecker, who became party leader in 1971; Mittag and Albrecht "have committed serious violations of party rules and carry the responsibility for the present situation in the party and the country."

Meanwhile, pro-democracy demonstrations continued with about 10,000 protesters rallying in the city of Erfurt Thursday night, said East Germany's state-run ADN news agency.

The protesters demanded an end to the Communist Party's constitutional entitlement to a monopoly on a power and legalisation of pro-democracy opposition groups, ADN said.

In the interview with West Germany's ARD television net-

work, Krenz attempted to distance himself from Honecker. Krenz said he had been "inspired by the new thinking of (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev," and that the year 1985, when Gorbachev came to power, had been "decisive" for him.

"This new thinking of Gorbachev led me to rethink many things," Krenz said in the 45-minute interview.

Krenz said he hadn't taken over as leader for a short-term period but added, "I am not clinging to any personal power and certainly not to any function." Krenz emphasised that a decision on his fate was up to next month's special party congress.

His close association with Honecker's rule has fuelled speculation that Krenz may lose his job at the congress.

Krenz also confirmed that the government was willing to include the growing opposition movement in the proposed "round-table discussions."

He also repeated promises of free elections and reassured that the party might be willing to change the much-criticised Article 1 of the constitution which guarantees the Communists' monopoly on power.

The party's probe of Honecker and others comes after a parliamentary commission had already begun looking into charges of misuse of power and corruption against the ousted leader and his inner-circle.

Bangkok presses call for gradual Cambodian peace

BANGKOK (Agencies) — An official news report said Thailand's deputy premier has told Vietnam his country favours a gradual settlement of the Cambodian war, an approach rejected by Indonesia, which is organising a new round of peace talks.

Along with China, Thailand is the main supporter of a guerrilla coalition trying to oust the government that Vietnam installed in Cambodia when it invaded the country 11 years ago.

"We could and we should take step by step to settle the problem," the Vietnam News Agency quoted Deputy Premier Buihiet Rattakul as telling a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to Vietnam Thursday. A text was seen in Bangkok Friday.

He said this could be achieved by holding as soon as possible the informal peace talks that Indonesia is organising, according to the agency.

The Cambodian resistance and most governments involved in the issue say the war will not be resolved without a single accord addressing all the major issues.

But Thailand's Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, expressing impatience with the slow

progress, says the combatants should agree to a truce and international verification of Vietnam's troop withdrawal before tackling the main issue of power-sharing.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said in Jakarta Wednesday, however, that the coming talks must be aimed at trying to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

Asked about Chatichai's approach, he said the conflict "cannot be separated or taken step by step, because all the elements in the conflict are inter-linked with each other."

Alatas said the talks, co-chaired by France, could be held in Jakarta by February.

He said those who said they will attend were the guerrilla forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of Son San, Vietnam and its allied government in Cambodia, and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations — Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Of those invited, no word has been received from Laos and the third guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, said Alatas. Talks so far

have stalled over the Cambodian government's refusal to share power with the Communist Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands of people in the 1970s before Vietnam's invasion ended its rule.

Reward pot sweetened

An offer of gold has sweetened the pot of rewards being offered by the four warring factions to tempt defections and military booty-hunters in the Cambodian conflict.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the commander of guerrilla followers of his exiled father, Prince Sihanouk, has promised \$40,000 worth of gold to any pilot who flees with one of the Cambodian government's Soviet-built MiG-21 fighters.

The prince has also dangled prizes of \$24,000 for other aircraft and helicopters.

Deliverers of tanks will get \$6,000 and any big-bore weapon fetches \$2,000.

"Anyone who can deliver five a Vietnamese soldier in (a government) army uniform will be awarded... in gold, or \$1,000, a text of the announcement seen Friday said.

Apples for 'A'

CHETOPA, Kansas (AP) — Willard Warwick does not need a calendar to know when report cards are out at Chetopa grade school. Within hours, pupils are lined up at his store. For the past 28 years, he has handed out bags of apples at his grocery store in this southeast Kansas town of 1,700 people for pupils from kindergarten to eighth grade who receive an "A" in mathematics. Warwick estimates he gives away 54.4 kilograms of apples each quarter — 217.7 kilograms a year. The first year he gave away the apples, Warwick's daughter was in the first grade. Now Cynda Jarrett is the mother of two apple-winning children and the school's second-grade teacher. Her son, Lucas, in kindergarten, was one of the newest apple winners. He was nonchalant about his "A" when his mother asked him how he earned the high mark. "Don't ask me. I don't know. Ask my brain," he said.

Bush son-in-law faces court charges

MAYNARD, Massachusetts (AP) — U.S. President George Bush's son-in-law was arrested on drunken driving and drug possession charges after being stopped in his pickup truck, police said.

William Heekin Leblond, 32, estranged husband of Bush's 30-year-old daughter, Dorothy, was stopped Nov. 10 and charged with drunken driving and possession of marijuana, police chief Arner Tibbetts said. Tibbetts said he did not know how much marijuana Leblond had or whether any alcohol was found in his car. Leblond spent the night in the Maynard jail before being released on \$25 bail the next morning, Tibbetts said. Leblond, of Maine, separated from his wife of eight years in August.

3 named 'chefs of century'

PARIS (AP) — Superstar French chefs Paul Bocuse and Joel Robuchon, and the Swiss Fredy Girardet have been named "chefs of the century" by the Gault-Millau Guidebook. The honour also was a return to grace for Bocuse because the guide gave him back his fourth toque, or chef's hat. The toque is Gault-Millau's symbol for excellence and Bocuse was demoted to three toques by last year's guide. According to the guidebook's president and editor, Christian Millau, Bocuse's problem last year was turning out the same basic menu for years, while others had new ideas. Known as the "emperor of cuisine," Bocuse also was criticised for travelling around the world rather than tending to his stock pots at his restaurant near Lyon. Bocuse accused Millau of always bringing his dog to the restaurant and not asking for the bill. The spat simmered down as Millau and Bocuse kissed and made up. "I was very happy to be named a chef of the century, and we've settled our differences," said Bocuse. "But the century isn't over yet," he added. "I think there's room for more of us up there." He said he was flattered to be in the company of two legendary chefs who were posthumously named "chefs of the century," Auguste Escoffier and Fernand Point. "Escoffier was the master of us all," said Bocuse. "And Point was the first chef-owner, who ran his own show. Before that chefs were hidden away, as restaurateurs were owned by Maître D's or entrepreneurs."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Liechtenstein Prince entombed Shuttle to make night landing

VADUZ, Liechtenstein (R) — Prince Franz Josef II, ruler of the tiny Principality of Liechtenstein, was interred beside his wife in a humble parish church tomb Thursday, mourned by members of most royal families of Europe. By royal standards, it was a modest funeral for Europe's longest-reigning monarch, who died 10 days ago aged 83. A rambling, uniformed guard of honour from Liechtenstein's clubs and associations dipped their flags as Franz Josef's coffin was placed in the family tomb beside that of his wife, Princess Gina, who died only a month before him.

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — The space shuttle Discovery will make a rare night-time landing Sunday, U.S. space officials said. Touchdown for the shuttle, which was launched Wednesday night, is scheduled for 9:02 p.m. CST (0300 GMT Monday) at Edwards air force base in California, a spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said. This will be the third night landing since the shuttle program began, he said. The spokesman said the flight appeared to be going smoothly. Neither the Defense Department nor NASA would confirm it but private space sources said the main task of this mission was the deployment of a three-tonne satellite capable of eavesdropping on military and diplomatic communications in the Soviet Union.

Vatican, Hungary to restore ties

ROME (AP) — The Hungarian government and the Vatican, estranged for 44 years, have agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations soon, a top Hungarian official said. Barna Sarkadi Nagy, head of the government's secretariat for church affairs, made the announcement after three days of talks with Vatican officials that he described as "extraordinarily fruitful." The Vatican made no immediate comment but officials have previously indicated that an early resumption of diplomatic ties was possible.

Rust in detention

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Police said Thursday they were holding Matthias Rust, the German flier who spectacularly landed his light plane alongside Moscow's Red Square in 1987, and were investigating allegations that he assaulted a nurse. A police spokesman said Rust, 21, was not yet under formal arrest and no charges had been made. He said the amateur flier was being questioned about allegations that he twice stabbed an 18-year-old student nurse with a knife after trying to kiss her. The alleged attack took place at a hospital where he was doing civilian service, an alternative in West Germany to military service. Rust was released last year and returned to West Germany after serving 14 months of a four-year jail sentence in Moscow.

20 killed in Medellin

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian security forces killed two men and arrested 55 people in a raid on a Medellin cocaine cartel operations centre on the Magdalena River, a presidential communique said Thursday. The combined army and police strike force launched the raid in a region where the national police commander said reputed cartel leader Pablo Escobar could be hiding. Authorities seized two-way radios, weapons, vehicles, boats and 2,500 rounds of ammunition at the centre near Estacion de Coocoma, about 150 kilometres north-west of Bogota, the communique said. Army troops and police backed by the air force Thursday moved to close off the area surrounding Coocoma, the statement said. The move was apparently aimed at searching for fugitive cartel leaders.

Swimmer suspected of spying

BONN (R) — A man who swam the Danube to the West as a refugee is suspected of being an East German spy, West Germany's federal crime office said Thursday. A spokesman said the man appeared in court last week to face allegations he worked in West Germany for East Berlin's Ministry for State Security. The weekly magazine Bunte said the East German reached the West in recent weeks with six other agents who also swam the Danube from Czechoslovakia to Austria and posed as refugees. It did not say what had happened to them. Bunte said the man's task was to report back to East Berlin on emigrants staying at West Germany's main reception camp for East Germans at Giessen, near Frankfurt. His story came out after he was caught trying to steal a car, Bunte said.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	12	15	Cloudy
ATHENS	12	14	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	18	24	Cloudy
BANGKOK	18	24	Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	18	24	Cloudy
CAIRO	13	25	Clear
CHICAGO	12	10	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	08	27	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	01	20	Clear
GENEVA	02	20	Clear
HONG KONG	20	28	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	03	27	Cloudy
JAKARTA	01	24	Clear
LOS ANGELES	12	24	Cloudy
MADRID	08	12	Cloudy
MEXICO	22	22	Cloudy
MONTREAL	14	07	Cloudy
MOSCOW	04	25	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	15	29	Clear
NEW YORK	03	28	Cloudy
PARIS	00	27	Clear
ROME	11	22	Cloudy
SYDNEY	19	26	Cloudy
TOKYO	08	14	Clear
VIENNA	01	30	Clear